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2019 年 6 月

第一套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Professor Stephen Hawking has warned that the creation of powerful artificial intelligence (AI) will be "either the best, or the worst thing, ever to happen to humanity", and praised the creation of an academic institute dedicated to researching the future of intelligence as "crucial to the future of our civilisation and our species".

Hawking was speaking at the opening of the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence (LCFI) at Cambridge University, a multi-disciplinary institute that will attempt to tackle some of the open-ended questions raised by the rapid pace of development in AI research. "We spend a great deal of time studying history," Hawking said, "which, let's face it, is mostly the history of stupidity. So it's a welcome change that people are studying instead the future of intelligence."

While the world-renowned physicist has often been cautious about AI, raising concerns that humanity could be the architect of its own destruction if it creates a super-intelligence with a will of its own, he was also quick to highlight the positives that AI research can bring. "The potential benefits of creating intelligence are huge," he said. "We cannot predict what we might achieve when our own minds are amplified by AI. Perhaps with the tools of this new technological revolution, we will be able to undo some of the damage done to the natural world by the last one - industrialisation. And surely we will aim to finally eradicate disease and poverty. And every aspect of our lives will be transformed. In short, success in creating AI could be the biggest event in the history of our civilisation.

Huw Price, the centre's academic director and the Bertrand Russell professor of philosophy at Cambridge University, where Hawking is also an academic, said that the centre came about partially as a result of the university's Centre for Existential Risk. That institute examined a wider range of potential problems for humanity, while the LCFI has a narrow focus.

AI pioneer Margaret Boden, professor of cognitive science at the University of Sussex, praised the progress of such discussions. As recently as 2009, she said, the topic wasn't taken seriously, even among AI researchers. "AI is hugely exciting," she said, "but it has limitations, which present grave dangers given uncritical use."

The academic community is not alone in warning about the potential dangers of AI as well as the potential benefits. A number of pioneers from the technology industry, most famously the entrepreneur Elon Musk, have also expressed their concerns about the damage that a super-intelligent AI could do to humanity.

46. What did Stephen Hawking think of artificial intelligence?

A) It would be vital to the progress of human civilisation.

- B) It might be a blessing or a disaster in the making.
 - C) It might present challenges as well as opportunities.
 - D) It would be a significant expansion of human intelligence.
47. What did Hawking say about the creation of the LCFI?
- A) It would accelerate the progress of AI research.
 - B) It would mark a step forward in the AI industry.
 - C) It was extremely important to the destiny of humankind.
 - D) It was an achievement of multi-disciplinary collaboration.
48. What did Hawking say was a welcome change in AI research?
- A) The shift of research focus from the past to the future.
 - B) The shift of research from theory to implementation.
 - C) The greater emphasis on the negative impact of AI.
 - D) The increasing awareness of mankind's past stupidity.
49. What concerns did Hawking raise about AI?
- A) It may exceed human intelligence sooner or later.
 - B) It may ultimately over-amplify the human mind.
 - C) Super-intelligence may cause its own destruction.
 - D) Super-intelligence may eventually ruin mankind.
50. What do we learn about some entrepreneurs from the technology industry?
- A) They are much influenced by the academic community.
 - B) They are most likely to benefit from AI development.
 - C) They share the same concerns about AI as academics.
 - D) They believe they can keep AI under human control.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

The market for products designed specifically for older adults could reach \$30 billion by next year, and startups(初创公司) want in on the action. What they sometimes lack is feedback from the people who they hope will use their products. So Brookdale, the country's largest owner of retirement communities, has been inviting a few select entrepreneurs just to move in for a few days, show off their products and hear what the residents have to say.

That's what brought Dayle Rodriguez, 28, all the way from England to the dining room of Brookdale South Bay in Torrance, California. Rodriguez is the community and marketing manager for a company called Sentab. The startup's product, SentabTV, enables older adults who may not be comfortable with computers to access email, video chat and social media using just their televisions and a remote control.

"It's nothing new, it's nothing too complicated and it's natural because lots of people have TV remotes," says Rodriguez.

But none of that is the topic of conversation in the Brookdale dining room. Instead, Rodriguez solicits residents' advice on what he should get on his cheeseburger and how he should spend the afternoon. Playing cards was on the agenda, as well as learning to play mahjong(麻将).

Rodriguez says it's important that residents here don't feel like he's selling them something. "I've had more feedback in a passive approach," he says. "Playing pool, playing cards, having dinner, having lunch," all work better "than going through a survey of question. When they get to know me and to trust me, knowing for sure I'm not selling them something - there'll be more honest feedback from them."

Rodriguez is just the seventh entrepreneur to move into one of Brookdale's 1,100 senior living communities. Other new products in the program have included a kind of full-blow dryer and specially designed clothing that allows people with disabilities to dress and undress themselves.

Mary Lou Busch, 93, agree to try the Sentab system. She tells Rodriguez that it might be good for someone, but not for her.

"I have the computer and FaceTime, which I talk with my family on," she explains. She also has an iPad and a smartphone. "So I do pretty much everything I need to do."

To be fair, if Rodriguez had wanted feedback from some more technophobic(害怕技术的) seniors, he might have ended up in the wrong Brookdale community. This one is located in the heart of Southern California's aerospace corridor. Many residents have backgrounds in engineering, business and academic circles.

But Rodriguez says he's still learning something important by moving into this Brookdale community: "People are more tech-proficient than we thought."

And besides, where else would he learn to play mahjong?

51. What does the passage say about the startups?

- A) They never lose time in upgrading products for seniors.
- B) They want to have a share of the seniors' goods market.
- C) They invite seniors to their companies to try their products.
- D) They try to profit from promoting digital products to seniors.

52. Some entrepreneurs have been invited to Brookdale to _____.

- A) have an interview with potential customers
- B) conduct a survey of retirement communities
- C) collect residents' feedback on their products
- D) show senior residents how to use IT products

53. What do we know about SentabTV?

- A) It is a TV program catering to the interest of the elderly.
- B) It is a digital TV which enjoys popularity among seniors.
- C) It is a TV specially designed for seniors to view programs.
- D) It is a communication system via TV instead of a computer.

54. What does Rodriguez say is important in promoting products?

- A) Winning trust from prospective customers.
- B) Knowing the likes and dislikes of customers.
- C) Demonstrating their superiority on the spot.
- D) Responding promptly to customer feedback.

55. What do we learn about the seniors in the Brookdale community?

- A) Most of them are interested in using the Sentab.
- B) They are quite at ease with high-tech products.
- C) They have much in common with seniors elsewhere.

D) Most of them enjoy a longer life than average people.

第二套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Effective Friday, Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) has declared a strike against 11 video game publishers over games that went into production after Feb.17, 2015. The companies include some of the heavyweights of the industry, like Electronic Arts Productions, Insomniac Games, Activision and Disney.

The strike comes in light of an unsuccessful 19 months of negotiations after the existing labor contract known as the Interactive Media Agreement expired in late 2014. Overall, the strike is an effort to provide more secondary compensation along with other concerns, such as transparency upon hiring talent and on-set(制作中) safety precautions.

The video gaming industry has ballooned in recent years. The Los Angeles Times reports that the industry is in the midst of an intense increase in cash flow. In 2015, gaming produced \$23.5 billion in domestic revenue.

But SAG-AFTRA says voice actors don't receive residuals(追加酬金) for their gaming work. Instead, they receive a fixed rate, which is typically about \$825 for a standard four-hour vocal session. So the voice actors are pushing for the idea of secondary compensation - performance bonus every time a game sells 2 million copies or downloads, or reaches 2 million subscribers, with a cap at 8 million.

"It's a very small number of games that would trigger this secondary compensation issue," said voice actor Crispin Freeman, who's a member of the union's negotiating committee. "This is an important aspect of what it means to be a freelance(从事自由职业的) performer, who isn't regularly employed every single day working on projects."

Another major complaint from the actors is the secrecy of the industry. "I can't imagine if there's any other acting job in the world where you don't know what show you're in, when you're hired," says voice actor Keythe Farley, who chairs the SAG-AFTRA negotiating committee.

"And yet that happens every day in the video game world," Farley told reporters during a press conference Friday. "I was a main character in Fallout 4, a character by the name of Kellogg, and I never knew that I was doing vocal recording for that game throughout the year and a half."

Scott Witlin, the lawyer representing the video game companies, says voice actors "represent less than one tenth of 1 percent of the work that goes into making a video game." So "even though they're the top craftsmen in their field," Witlin says, "if we pay them under a vastly different system than the people who do the 99.9 percent of the work, that's going to create far more problems for the video game companies."

46. Why did SAG-AFTRA declare a strike against some video game publishers?

A) The labor contract between them had been violated.

- B) Its appeal to renegotiate the contract had been rejected.
C) It had been cheated repeatedly in the 19 months of talks.
D) The negotiations between them had broken down.
47. What do we learn from the passage about the video gaming industry?
A) It has reaped huge profits in recent years. B) It has become more open and transparent.
C) It has attracted many famous voice actors. D) It has invested a lot in its domestic market.
48. What are the voice actors demanding?
A) More regular employment. B) A non-discriminatory contract.
C) Extra pay based on sales revenues. D) A limit on the maximum work hours.
49. What does Keythe Farley say about voice actors?
A) They are kept in the dark about many details of their job.
B) They are discriminated against in the gaming industry.
C) They are not paid on a regular basis. D) They are not employed full-time.
50. What is the argument of lawyer Scott Witlin?
A) Voice actors should have a pay raise if they prove to be top craftsmen.
B) Changing the pay system would cause the industry more problems.
C) Voice actors are mere craftsmen, not professional performers.
D) Paying voice actors on an hourly basis is in line with the law.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Officials at the White House announced a new space policy focused on managing the increasing number of satellites that companies and governments are launching into space. Space Policy Directive-3 lays out general guidelines for the United States to mitigate(缓解) the effects of space debris and track and manage traffic in space.

This policy sets the stage for the Department of Commerce to take over the management of traffic in space. The department will make sure that newly launched satellites don't use radio frequencies that would interfere with existing satellites, and schedule when such new satellites can be launched. This only applies to American space activities, but the hope is that it will help standardize a set of norms in the dawning commercial spaceflight industry throughout the world.

Space, especially the space directly around our planet, is getting more crowded as more governments and companies launch satellites. One impetus for the policy is that companies are already starting to build massive constellations(星座), comprising hundreds or thousands of satellites with many moving parts among them. With so much stuff in space, and a limited area around our planet, the government wants to reduce the chances of a collision. Two or more satellites slamming into each other could create many more out-of-control bits that would pose even more hazards to the growing collection of satellites in space.

And it's not like this hasn't happened before. In 2009 an old Russian craft slammed into a communications satellite, creating a cloud of hundreds of pieces of debris and putting other hardware at risk. Journalist Sarah Scoles reports that NASA currently tracks about 24,000 objects in space, and in 2016 the Air Force had to issue 3,995,874 warnings to satellite

owners alerting them to a potential nearby threat from another satellite or bit of debris.

That's why this new policy also includes directions to update the current U.S. Government Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices, which already require any entity that launches a satellite or spacecraft to vigorously analyze the likelihood that any of their actions, from an unexpected failure or normal operations, will create more space debris. It includes accounting for any piece of debris they plan to release over 5mm that might stay in orbit for 25 years or more. It might seem surprising to think about an item staying in space for that long, but the oldest satellite still in orbit - Vanguard 1 - turned 60 in 2018.

Agencies and companies throughout the world are working on developing technology that would dispose of or capture space debris before it causes serious damage. But for now, the U.S. government is more focused on preventing new debris from forming than taking the trash out of orbit.

51. What is the purpose of the new U.S. space policy?

- A) To lay out general guidelines for space exploration.
- B) To encourage companies to join in space programs.
- C) To make the best use of satellites in space.
- D) To improve traffic conditions in space.

52. What is the Department of Commerce expected to do under the new policy?

- A) Reduce debris in space. B) Monitor satellite operations.
- C) Regulate the launching of new satellites.
- D) Update satellite communications technology.

53. What does the U.S. government hope to do with the new space policy?

- A) Set international standards for the space flight industry.
- B) Monopolize space industry by developing a set of norms.
- C) Facilitate commercial space flights throughout the world.
- D) Promote international collaboration in space exploration.

54. What is a space vehicle launching entity required to do according to the current U.S. Government Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices?

- A) Give an estimate of how long its debris will stay in space.
- B) Account for the debris it has released into space at any time.
- C) Provide a detailed plan for managing the space debris it creates.
- D) Make a thorough analysis of any possible addition to space debris.

55. What are space agencies and companies aiming to do at present?

- A) Recycle used space vehicles before they turn into debris.
- B) Develop technology to address the space debris problem.
- C) Limit the amount of debris entering space. D) Cooperate closely to retrieve space debris.

第三套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

When I re-entered the full-time workforce a few years ago after a decade of solitary self-employment, there was one thing I was looking forward to the most: the opportunity to have work friends once again. It wasn't until I entered the corporate world that I realized, for me at least, being friends with colleagues didn't emerge as a priority at all. This is surprising when you consider the prevailing emphasis by scholars and trainers and managers on the importance of cultivating close interpersonal relationships at work. So much research has explored the way in which collegial(同事的) ties can help overcome a range of workplace issues affecting productivity and the quality of work output such as team-based conflict, jealousy, undermining, anger, and more.

Perhaps my expectations of lunches, water-cooler gossip and caring, deep-and-meaningful conversations were a legacy of the last time I was in that kind of office environment. Whereas now, as I near the end of my fourth decade, I realize work can be fully functional and entirely fulfilling without needing to be best mates with the people sitting next to you.

In an academic analysis just published in the profoundly-respected Journal of Management, researchers have looked at the concept of "indifferent relationships". It's a simple term that encapsulates(概括) the fact that relationships at work can reasonably be non-intimate, inconsequential, unimportant and even, dare I say it, disposable or substitutable.

Indifferent relationships are neither positive nor negative. The limited research conducted thus far indicates they're especially dominant among those who value independence over cooperation, and harmony over confrontation. Indifference is also the preferred option among those who are socially lazy. Maintaining relationships over the long term takes effort. For some of us, too much effort.

As noted above, indifferent relationships may not always be the most helpful approach in resolving some of the issues that pop up at work. But there are nonetheless several empirically proven benefits. One of those is efficiency. Less time chatting and socializing means more time working and churning(产出).

The other is self-esteem. As human beings, we're primed to compare ourselves to each other in what is an anxiety-inducing phenomenon. Apparently, we look down on acquaintances more so than Mends. Since the former is most common among those inclined towards indifferent relationships, their predominance can bolster individuals' sense of self-worth.

Ego aside, a third advantage is that the emotional neutrality of indifferent relationships has been found to enhance critical evaluation, to strengthen one's focus on task resolution, and to gain greater access to valuable information. None of that might be as fun as after-work socializing but, hey, I'll take it anyway.

46. What did the author realize when he re-entered the corporate world?

- A) Making new friends with his workmates was not as easy as he had anticipated.
- B) Cultivating positive interpersonal relationships helped him expel solitary feelings.
- C) Working in the corporate world requires more interpersonal skills than self-employment.
- D) Building close relationships with his colleagues was not as important as he had expected.

47. What do we learn from many studies about collegial relationships?

- A) Inharmonious relationships have an adverse effect on productivity.

- B) Harmonious relationships are what many companies aim to cultivate.
C) Close collegial relationships contribute very little to product quality.
D) Conflicting relationships in the workplace exist almost everywhere.
48. What can be inferred about relationships at work from an academic analysis?
A) They should be cultivated. B) They are virtually irrelevant.
C) They are vital to corporate culture. D) They should be reasonably intimate.
49. What does the author say about people who are socially lazy?
A) They feel uncomfortable when engaging in social interactions.
B) They often find themselves in confrontation with their colleagues.
C) They are unwilling to make efforts to maintain workplace relationships.
D) They lack basic communication skills in dealing with interpersonal issues.
50. What is one of the benefits of indifferent relationships?
A) They provide fun at work. B) They help control emotions.
C) They help resolve differences. D) They improve work efficiency.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

In a few decades, artificial intelligence (AI) will surpass many of the abilities that we believe make us special. This is a grand challenge for our age and it may require an "irrational" response.

One of the most significant pieces of news from the US in early 2017 was the efforts of Google to make autonomous driving a reality. According to a report, Google's self-driving cars clocked 1,023,330km, and required human intervention 124 times. That is one intervention about every 8,047km of autonomous driving. But even more impressive is the progress in just a single year: human interventions fell from 0.8 times per thousand miles to 0.2, a 400% improvement. With such progress, Google's cars will easily surpass my own driving ability later this year.

Driving once seemed to be a very human skill. But we said that about chess, too. Then a computer beat the human world champion, repeatedly. The board game Go(围棋) took over from chess as a new test for human thinking in 2016, when a computer beat one of the world's leading professional Go players. With computers conquering what used to be deeply human tasks, what will it mean in the future to be human? I worry about my six-year-old son. What will his place be in a world where machines beat us in one area after another? He'll never calculate faster, never drive better, or even fly more safely. Actually, it all comes down to a fairly simple question: What's so special about us? It can't be skills like arithmetic, which machines already excel in. So far, machines have a pretty hard time emulating creativity, arbitrary enough not to be predicted by a computer, and yet more than simple randomness.

Perhaps, if we continue to improve information-processing machines, we'll soon have helpful rational assistants. So we must aim to complement the rationality of the machine, rather than to compete with it. If I'm right, we should foster a creative spirit because a dose of illogical creativity will complement the rationality of the machine. Unfortunately, however, our education system has not caught up to the approaching reality. Indeed, our schools and

universities are structured to mould pupils to be mostly obedient servants of rationality, and to develop outdated skills in interacting with outdated machines. We need to help our children learn how to best work with smart computers to improve human decision-making. But most of all we need to keep the long-term perspective in mind: that even if computers will outsmart us, we can still be the most creative. Because if we aren't, we won't be providing much value in future ecosystems, and that may put in question the foundation for our existence.

51. What is the author's greatest concern about the use of AI?

- A) Computers are performing lots of creative tasks.
- B) Many abilities will cease to be unique to human beings.
- C) Computers may become more rational than humans.
- D) Many human skills are fast becoming outdated.

52. What impresses the author most in the field of AI?

- A) Google's experimental driverless cars require little human intervention.
- B) Google's cars have surpassed his driving ability in just a single year.
- C) Google has made huge progress in autonomous driving in a short time.
- D) Google has become a world leader in the field of autonomous driving.

53. What do we learn from the passage about creativity?

- A) It is rational. B) It is predictable.
- C) It is human specific. D) It is yet to be emulated by AI.

54. What should schools help children do in the era of AI?

- A) Cultivate original thinking. B) Learn to work independently.
- C) Compete with smart machines. D) Understand how AI works.

55. How can we humans justify our future existence?

- A) By constantly outsmarting computers. B) By adopting a long-term perspective.
- C) By rationally compromising with AI. D) By providing value with our creativity.

2019 年 12 月

第一套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

"The dangerous thing about lying is people don't understand how the act changes us," says Dan Ariely, behavioural psychologist at Duke University. Psychologists have documented children lying as early as the age of two. Some experts even consider lying a developmental milestone, like crawling and walking, because it requires sophisticated planning, attention and the ability to see a situation from someone else's perspective to manipulate them. But, for most people, lying gets limited as we develop a sense of morality and the ability to self-regulate.

Harvard cognitive neuroscientist Joshua Greene says, for most of us, lying takes work. In studies, he gave subjects a chance to deceive for monetary gain while examining their brains in a functional MRI machine, which maps blood flow to active parts of the brain. Some people told the truth instantly and instinctively. But others opted to lie, and they showed increased activity in their frontal parietal(额叶侧壁的) control network, which is involved in difficult or complex thinking. This suggests that they were deciding between truth and dishonesty - and ultimately opting for the latter. For a follow-up analysis, he found that people whose neural(神经的) reward centres were more active when they won money were also more likely to be among the group of liars - suggesting that lying may have to do with the inability to resist temptation.

External conditions also matter in terms of when and how often we lie. We are more likely to lie, research shows, when we are able to rationalise it, when we are stressed and fatigued or see others being dishonest. And we are less likely to lie when we have moral reminders or when we think others are watching. "We as a society need to understand that, when we don't punish lying, we increase the probability it will happen again," Ariely says.

In a 2016 study published in the journal Nature Neuroscience, Ariely and colleagues showed how dishonesty alters people's brains, making it easier to tell lies in the future. When people uttered a falsehood, the scientists noticed a burst of activity in their amygdala. The amygdala is a crucial part of the brain that produces fear, anxiety and emotional responses including that sinking, guilty feeling you get when you lie. But when scientists had their subjects play a game in which they won money by deceiving their partner, they noticed the negative signals from the amygdala began to decrease. Not only that, but when people faced no consequences for dishonesty, their falsehoods tended to get even more sensational. This means that if you give people multiple opportunities to lie for their own benefit, they start with little lies which get bigger over time.

46. Why do some experts consider lying a milestone in a child's development?

A) It shows they have the ability to view complex situations from different angles.

- B) It indicates they have an ability more remarkable than crawling and walking.
 - C) It represents their ability to actively interact with people around them.
 - D) It involves the coordination of both their mental and physical abilities.
47. Why does the Harvard neuroscientist say that lying takes work?
- A) It is hard to choose from several options.
 - B) It is difficult to sound natural or plausible.
 - C) It requires speedy blood flow into one's brain.
 - D) It involves lots of sophisticated mental activity.
48. Under what circumstances do people tend to lie?
- A) When they become too emotional.
 - B) When they face too much peer pressure.
 - C) When the temptation is too strong.
 - D) When the consequences are not imminent.
49. When are people less likely to lie?
- A) When they are worn out and stressed.
 - B) When they are under watchful eyes.
 - C) When they think in a rational way.
 - D) When they have a clear conscience.
50. What does the author say will happen when a liar does not get punished?
- A) They may feel justified.
 - B) They will tell bigger lies.
 - C) They will become complacent.
 - D) They may mix lies and truths.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Here's how the Pacific Northwest is preparing for "The Big One". It's the mother of all disaster drills for what could be the worst disaster in American history. California has spent years preparing for "The Big One" - the inevitable earthquake that will undoubtedly unleash all kinds of havoc along the famous San Andreas fault(断层). But what if the fault that runs along the Pacific Northwest delivers a gigantic earthquake of its own? If the people of the Cascadia region have anything to do with it, they won't be caught unawares.

The region is engaged in a multi-day earthquake-and-tsunami(海啸) drill involving around 20,000 people. The Cascadia Rising drill gives area residents and emergency responders a chance to practice what to do in case of a 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami along one of the nation's dangerous - and underestimated - faults.

The Cascadia Earthquake Zone is big enough to compete with San Andreas (it's been called the most dangerous fault in America), but it's much lesser known than its California cousin. Nearly 700 miles long, the earthquake zone is located by the North American Plate off the coast of Pacific British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and Northern California.

Cascadia is what's known as a "megathrust" fault. Megathrusts are created in earthquake zones - land plate boundaries where two plates converge. In the areas where one plate is beneath another, stress builds up over time. During a megathrust event, all of that stress releases and some of the world's most powerful earthquakes occur. Remember the 9.1 earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean off Sumatra in 2004? It was caused by a megathrust event as the India plate moved beneath the Burma micro-plate.

The last time a major earthquake occurred along the Cascadia fault was in 1700, so officials worry that another event could occur any time. To prevent that event from

becoming a catastrophe, first responders will join members of the public in rehearsals that involve communication, evacuation, search and rescue, and other scenarios.

Thousands of casualties are expected if a 9.0 earthquake were to occur. First, the earthquake would shake metropolitan areas including Seattle and Portland. This could trigger a tsunami that would create havoc along the coast. Not all casualties can necessarily be prevented - but by coordinating across local, state, and even national borders, officials hope that the worst-case scenario can be averted. On the exercise's website, officials explain that the report they prepare during this rehearsal will inform disaster management for years to come.

For hundreds of thousands of Cascadia residents, "The Big One" isn't a question of if, only when. And it's never too early to get ready for the inevitable.

51. What does "The Big One" refer to?

- A) A gigantic geological fault. B) A large-scale exercise to prepare for disasters.
- C) A massive natural catastrophe. D) A huge tsunami on the California coast.

52. What is the purpose of the Cascadia Rising drill?

- A) To prepare people for a major earthquake and tsunami.
- B) To increase residents' awareness of imminent disasters.
- C) To teach people how to adapt to post-disaster life.
- D) To cope with the aftermath of a possible earthquake.

53. What happens in case of a megathrust earthquake according to the passage?

- A) Two plates merge into one. B) A variety of forces converge.
- C) Boundaries blur between plates. D) Enormous stress is released.

54. What do the officials hope to achieve through the drills?

- A) Coordinating various disaster-relief efforts.
- B) Reducing casualties in the event of a disaster.
- C) Minimizing property loss caused by disasters.
- D) Establishing disaster and emergency management.

55. What does the author say about "The Big One"?

- A) Whether it will occur remains to be seen. B) How it will arrive is too early to predict.
- C) Its occurrence is just a matter of time. D) It keeps haunting Cascadia residents.

第二套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Last year, a child was born at a hospital in the UK with her heart outside her body. Few babies survive this rare condition, and those who do must endure numerous operations and are likely to have complex needs. When her mother was interviewed, three weeks after her daughter's birth, she was asked if she was prepared for what might be a daunting(令人生畏的) task caring for her. She answered without hesitation that, as far as she was concerned, this would be a "privilege".

Rarely has there been a better example of the power of attitude, one of our most powerful psychological tools. Our attitudes allow us to turn mistakes into opportunities, and loss into the chance for new beginnings. An attitude is a settled way of thinking, feeling and/or behaving towards particular objects, people, events or ideologies. We use our attitudes to filter, interpret and react to the world around us. You weren't born with attitudes, rather they are all learned, and this happens in a number of ways.

The most powerful influences occur during early childhood and include both what happened to you directly, and what those around you did and said in your presence. As you acquire a distinctive identity, your attitudes are further refined by the behavior of those with whom you identify - your family, those of your gender and culture, and the people you admire, even though you may not know them personally. Friendships and other important relationships become increasingly important, particularly during adolescence. About that same time and throughout adulthood, the information you receive, especially when ideas are repeated in association with goals and achievements you find attractive, also refines your attitudes.

Many people assume that our attitudes are internally consistent, that is, the way you think and feel about someone or something predicts your behavior towards them. However, many studies have found that feelings and thoughts don't necessarily predict behavior. In general, your attitudes will be internally consistent only when the behavior is easy, and when those around you hold similar beliefs. That's why, for example, may say they believe in the benefits of recycling or exercise, but don't behave in line with their views, because it takes awareness, effort and courage to go beyond merely stating that you believe something is a good idea.

One of the most effective ways to change an attitude is to start behaving as if you already feel and think the way you'd prefer to. Take some time to reflect on your attitudes, to think about what you believe and why. Is there anything you consider a burden rather than a privilege? If so, start behaving - right now - as if the latter is the case.

46. What do we learn from the passage about attitude?

- A) It shapes our beliefs and ideologies.
- B) It improves our psychological wellbeing.
- C) It determines how we respond to our immediate environment.
- D) It changes the way we think, feel and interact with one another.

47. What can contribute to the refinement of one's attitude, according to the passage?

- A) Their idols' behaviors.
- B) Their educational level.
- C) Their contact with the opposite gender.
- D) Their interaction with different cultures.

48. What do many studies find about people's feelings and thoughts?

- A) They may not suggest how a person is going to behave.
- B) They are in a way consistent with a person's mentality.
- C) They may not find expression in interpersonal relations.
- D) They are in line with a person's behavior no matter what.

49. How come many people don't do what they believe is good?

- A) They can't afford the time.
- B) They have no idea how to.
- C) They are hypocritical.
- D) They lack willpower.

50. What is proposed as a strategy to change attitude?

- A) Changing things that require one's immediate attention.

- B) Starting to act in a way that embodies one's aspirations.
- C) Adjusting one's behavior gradually over a period of time.
- D) Considering ways of reducing one's psychological burdens.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Industrial fishing for krill(磷虾) in the unspoilt waters around Antarctica is threatening the future of one of the world's last great wildernesses, according to a new report.

The study by Greenpeace analysed the movements of krill fishing vessels in the region and found they were increasingly operating "in the immediate vicinity of penguin colonies and whale feeding grounds". It also highlights incidents of fishing boats being involved in groundings, oil spills and accidents, which posed a serious threat to the Antarctic ecosystem.

The report, published on Tuesday, comes amid growing concern about the impact of fishing, and climate change on the Antarctic. A global campaign has been launched to create a network of ocean sanctuaries to protect the seas in the region and Greenpeace is calling for an immediate halt to fishing in areas being considered for sanctuary status.

Frida Bengtsson from Greenpeace's Protect the Antarctic campaign said: "If the krill industry wants to show it's a responsible player, then it should be voluntarily getting out of any area which is being proposed as an ocean sanctuary, and should instead be backing the protection of these huge tracts of the Antarctic."

A global campaign has been launched to turn a huge tract of Antarctic seas into ocean sanctuaries, protecting wildlife and banning not just krill fishing, but all fishing. One was created in the Ross Sea in 2016, another reserve is being proposed in a vast area of the Weddell Sea, and a third sanctuary is under consideration in the area west of the Antarctic Peninsula - a key krill fishing area.

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) manages the seas around Antarctica. It will decide on the Weddell Sea sanctuary proposal at a conference in Australia in October, although a decision on the peninsula sanctuary is not expected until later.

Keith Reid, a science manager at CCAMLR, said that the organisation sought "a balance between protection, conservation and sustainable fishing in the Southern Ocean." He said although more fishing was taking place nearer penguin colonies it was often happening later in the season when these colonies were empty.

"The creation of a system of marine protected areas is a key part of ongoing scientific and policy discussions in CCAMLR," he added. "Our long-term operation in the region depends on a healthy and thriving Antarctic marine ecosystem, which is why we have always had an open dialogue with the environmental non-governmental organisations. We strongly intend to continue this dialogue, including talks with Greenpeace, to discuss improvements based on the latest scientific data. We are not the ones to decide on the establishment of marine protected areas, but we hope to contribute positively with our knowledge and experience."

51. What does Greenpeace's study find about krill fishing?

- A) It caused a great many penguins and whales to migrate.
 - B) It was depriving penguins and whales of their habitats.
 - C) It was carried out too close to the habitats of penguins and whales.
 - D) It posed an unprecedented threat to the wildlife around Antarctica.
52. For what purpose has a global campaign been launched?
- A) To reduce the impact of climate change on Antarctica.
 - B) To establish conservation areas in the Antarctic region.
 - C) To regulate krill fishing operations in the Antarctic seas.
 - D) To publicise the concern about the impact of krill fishing.
53. What is Greenpeace's recommendation to the krill industry?
- A) Opting to operate away from the suggested conservation areas.
 - B) Volunteering to protect the endangered species in the Antarctic.
 - C) Refraining from krill fishing throughout the breeding season.
 - D) Showing its sense of responsibility by leading the global campaign.
54. What did CCAMLR aim to do according to its science manager?
- A) Raise public awareness of the vulnerability of Antarctic species.
 - B) Ban all commercial fishing operations in the Southern Ocean.
 - C) Keep the penguin colonies from all fishing interference.
 - D) Sustain fishing without damaging the Antarctic ecosystem.
55. How does CCAMLR define its role in the conservation of the Antarctic environment?
- A) A coordinator in policy discussions.
 - B) An authority on big data analysis.
 - C) A provider of the needed expertise.
 - D) An initiator of marine sanctuaries.

第三套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Schools are not just a microcosm(缩影) of society; they mediate it too. The best seeks to alleviate the external pressures on their pupils while equipping them better to understand and handle the world outside - at once sheltering them and broadening their horizons. This is ambitious in any circumstances, and in a divided and unequal society the two ideals can clash outright(直接地).

Trips that many adults would consider the adventure of a lifetime - treks in Borneo, a sports tour to Barbados - appear to have become almost routine at some state schools. Parents are being asked for thousands of pounds. Though schools cannot profit from these trips, the companies that arrange them do. Meanwhile, pupils arrive at school hungry because their families can't afford breakfast. The Child Poverty Action Group says nine out of 30 in every classroom fall below the poverty line. The discrepancy is startlingly apparent. Introducing a fundraising requirement for students does not help, as better-off children can tap up richer aunts and neighbours.

Probing the rock pools of a local beach or practising French on a language exchange

can fire children's passions, boost their skills and open their eyes to life's possibilities. Educational outings help bright but disadvantaged students to get better scores in A-level tests. In this globalised age, there is a good case for international travel, and some parents say they can manage the cost of a school trip abroad more easily than a family holiday. Even in the face of immense and mounting financial pressures, some schools have shown remarkable determination and ingenuity in ensuring that all their pupils are able to take up opportunities that may be truly life-changing. They should be applauded. Methods such as whole-school fundraising, with the proceeds(收益) pooled, can help to extend opportunities and fuel community spirit.

But 3,000 pounds trips cannot be justified when the average income for families with children is just over 30,000 pounds. Such initiatives close doors for many pupils. Some parents pull their children out of school because of expensive field trips. Even parents who can see that a trip is little more than a party or celebration may well feel guilt that their child is left behind.

The Department for Education's guidance says schools can charge only for board and lodging if the trip is part of the syllabus, and that students receiving government aid are exempt from these costs. However, many schools seem to ignore the advice; and it does not cover the kind of glamorous, exotic trips, which are becoming increasingly common. Schools cannot be expected to bring together communities single-handed. But the least we should expect is that they do not foster divisions and exclude those who are already disadvantaged.

46. What does the author say best schools should do?

- A) Prepare students to both challenge and change the divided unequal society.
- B) Protect students from social pressures and enable them to face the world.
- C) Motivate students to develop their physical as well as intellectual abilities.
- D) Encourage students to be ambitious and help them to achieve their goals.

47. What does the author think about school field trips?

- A) They enable students from different backgrounds to mix with each other.
- B) They widen the gap between privileged and disadvantaged students.
- C) They give the disadvantaged students a chance to see the world.
- D) They only benefit students with rich relatives and neighbours.

48. What does the author suggest can help build community spirit?

- A) Events aiming to improve community services.
- B) Activities that help to fuel students' ingenuity.
- C) Events that require mutual understanding.
- D) Activities involving all students on campus.

49. What do we learn about low-income parents regarding school field trips?

- A) They want their children to participate even though they don't see much benefit.
- B) They don't want their kids to participate but find it hard to keep them from going.
- C) They don't want their kids to miss any chance to broaden their horizons despite the cost.
- D) They want their children to experience adventures but they don't want them to run risks.

50. What is the author's expectation of schools?

- A) Bringing a community together with ingenuity.
- B) Resolving the existing discrepancies in society.
- C) Avoiding creating new gaps among students.

D) Giving poor students preferential treatment.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Rising temperatures and overfishing in the pristine(未受污染的) waters around the Antarctic could see king penguin populations pushed to the brink of extinction by the end of the century, according to a new study. The study's report states that as global warming transforms the environment in the world's last great wilderness, 70 percent of king penguins could either disappear or be forced to find new breeding grounds.

Co-author Celine Le Bohec, from the University of Strasbourg in France, warned: "If there're no actions aimed at halting or controlling global warming, and the pace of the current human-induced changes such as climate change and overfishing stays the same, the species may soon disappear." The findings come amid growing concern over the future of the Antarctic. Earlier this month a separate study found that a combination of climate change and industrial fishing is threatening the krill(磷虾) population in Antarctic waters, with a potentially disastrous impact on whales, seals and penguins. But today's report is the starkest warning yet of the potentially devastating impact of climate change and human exploitation on the Antarctic's delicate ecosystems.

Le Bohec said: "Unless current greenhouse gas emissions drop, 70 percent of king penguins - 1.1 million breeding pairs - will be forced to relocate their breeding grounds, or face extinction by 2100." King penguins are the second-largest type of penguin and only breed on specific isolated islands in the Southern Ocean where there is no ice cover and easy access to the sea. As the ocean warms, a body of water called the Antarctic Polar Front - an upward movement of nutrient-rich sea that supports a huge abundance of marine life - is being pushed further south. This means that king penguins, which feed on fish and kill in this body of water, have to travel further to their feeding grounds, leaving their hungry chicks for longer. And as the distance between their breeding grounds and their food grows, entire colonies could be wiped out.

Le Bohec said: "The plight of the king penguin should serve as a warning about the future of the entire marine environment in the Antarctic. Penguins, like other seabirds and marine mammals, occupy higher levels in the food chain and they are what we call bio-indicators of their ecosystems." Penguins are sensitive indicators of changes in marine ecosystems. As such, they are key species for understanding and predicting impacts of global change on Antarctic and sub-Antarctic marine ecosystems. The report found that although some king penguins may be able to relocate to new breeding grounds closer to their retreating food source, suitable new habitats would be scarce. Only a handful of islands in the Southern Ocean are suitable for sustaining large breeding colonies.

51. What will happen by 2100, according to a new study?

- A) King penguins in the Antarctic will be on the verge of dying out.
- B) Sea water will rise to a much higher level around the Antarctic.
- C) The melting ice cover will destroy the great Antarctic wilderness.
- D) The pristine waters around the Antarctic will disappear forever.

52. What do we learn from the findings of a separate study?

- A) Shrinking krill population and rising temperatures could force Antarctic whales to migrate.
- B) Human activities have accelerated climate change in the Antarctic region in recent years.
- C) Industrial fishing and climate change could be fatal to certain Antarctic species.
- D) Krill fishing in the Antarctic has worsened the pollution of the pristine waters.

53. What does the passage say about king penguins?

- A) They will turn out to be the second-largest species of birds to become extinct.
- B) Many of them will have to migrate to isolated islands in the Southern Ocean.
- C) They feed primarily on only a few kinds of krill in the Antarctic Polar Front.
- D) The majority of them may have to find new breeding grounds in the future.

54. What happens when sea levels rise in the Antarctic?

- A) Many baby king penguins can't have food in time.
- B) Many king penguins could no longer live on krill.
- C) Whales will invade king penguins' breeding grounds.
- D) Whales will have to travel long distances to find food.

55. What do we learn about the Southern Ocean?

- A) The king penguins there are reluctant to leave for new breeding grounds.
- B) Its conservation is key to the sustainable propagation of Antarctic species.
- C) It is most likely to become the ultimate retreat for species like the king penguin.
- D) Only a few of its islands can serve as huge breeding grounds for king penguins.

2020 年 6 月

2020 年 7 月(伪 6 月 第一套)

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

People often discuss the dangers of too much stress, but lately a very different view of stress is gaining popularity: this view of stress, held by members of the positive stress movement, argues that stress might actually be beneficial. The positive stress movement is made up of people such as Zachary Rapp who are looking for an edge in a competitive world, and Rapp's routine is a good example of followers of the movement. He wakes up most mornings at dawn, goes for a run, sips black coffee while ripping through emails, and then steps into a freezing cold shower. This is a routine designed to reduce the stress of running simultaneously three different health and biotechnology companies for 18 hours a day.

Although Rapp's practices may sound extreme, he is part of a growing movement, consisting largely of tech industry workers who claim that such radical tactics will help them live better and longer. Inspired by influential figures in different fields, including entertainers, athletes, entrepreneurs and scientists, positive stress practitioners seek out some combination of extreme temperatures, restrictive diets, punishing exercise routines and general discomfort.

Rapp argues that positive stress keeps him balanced. In addition to running and freezing showers, Rapp uses ice baths, hot yoga, and unconventional eating practices such as eliminating dairy, sugar, alcohol and various other foods high in carbohydrates. He believes that these practices, which put stress on his body, actually make him feel less stress from work. However, Rapp does not credit anyone in particular for his choices: he said he started using these methods in college, where he got into the habit of taking ice baths to recover from sports. He got back into it while trying to get his three companies off the ground.

Rapp works long hours and sleeps only five to seven hours a night but he said he only gets sick once a year. For him, the difference between day-to-day stress, like the kind we feel when moving apartments, and positive stress is that the latter involves pushing the body to extremes and forcing it to build up a tolerance.

One thought leader in the positive stress world is Dutch extreme athlete Wim Hof, who earned the name "ice man" for his ability to withstand severe cold using deep breathing exercises. Hof's ideas have become popular among tech industry elites and, thanks to Hof, cold showers are now a trend; indeed, some even call it a form of therapy.

But it is important to note that not everyone agrees with these practitioners; indeed, some medical professionals argue that positive stress is not for everyone, and that it might even be dangerous for people who are unhealthy or older.

46. What do we learn about followers of the positive stress movement?
- A) They are usually quite sensitive to different types of stress.
 - B) They hold a different view on stress from the popular one.
 - C) They derive much pleasure from living a very hectic life.
 - D) They gain a competitive edge by enjoying good health.
47. What do followers of the positive stress movement usually do to put their ideas into practice?
- A) They keep changing their living habits. B) They network with influential figures.
 - C) They seek jobs in tech industries. D) They apply extreme tactics.
48. What does Zachary Rapp say about his unconventional practices?
- A) They help him combat stress from work.
 - B) They enable him to cut down living expenses.
 - C) They enable him to recover from injuries and illnesses.
 - D) They help him get three companies enlisted all at once.
49. What can be inferred from the passage about day-to-day stress?
- A) It is harmful to one's physical and mental health.
 - B) It does not differ in essence from positive stress.
 - C) It is something everybody has to live with.
 - D) It does not help build up one's tolerance.
50. What do some medical professionals think of positive stress?
- A) Its true effect remains to be verified. B) Its side effect should not be ignored.
 - C) Its effect varies considerably from person to person.
 - D) Its practitioners should not take it as a form of therapy.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Is hunting good or bad for the environment? Like so many hot-button issues, the answer to this question depends upon who you ask. On the one hand, some say, nothing could be more natural than hunting, and indeed just about every animal species - including humans - has been either predator or prey at some point in its evolution. And, ironic as it sounds, since humans have wiped out many animal predators, some see hunting as a natural way to reduce the herds of prey animals that now reproduce beyond the environment's carrying capacity.

On the other hand, many environmental and animal advocates see hunting as savage, arguing that it is morally wrong to kill animals, regardless of practical considerations. According to Glenn Kirk of the California-based The Animals' Voice, hunting "causes immense suffering to individual wild animals..." and is "irrationally cruel because unlike natural predation(捕食), hunters kill for pleasure..." He adds that, despite hunters' claims that hunting keeps wildlife populations in balance, hunters' license fees are used to "manipulate a few game species into overpopulation at the expense of a much larger number of non-game species, resulting in the loss of biological diversity, genetic integrity and ecological balance."

Beyond moral issues, others contend that hunting is not practical. According to the

Humane Society of the United States, the vast majority of hunted species - such as waterfowl, rabbits, upland birds and mourning doves - "provide minimal nutrition and do not require population control."

Author Gary E. Varner suggests in his book, *In Nature's Interests*, that some types of hunting may be morally justifiable while others may not be. Hunting "designed to secure the aggregate welfare of the target species, the integrity of its ecosystem, or both" - what Varner terms 'therapeutic hunting' - is defensible, while subsistence and sport hunting - both of which only benefit human beings - is not.

Regardless of one's individual stance, fewer Americans hunt today than in recent history. Data gathered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 2006 show that only five percent of Americans - some 12.5 million individuals - consider themselves hunters today, down from nine percent in 2001 and 15 percent in 1996.

Public support for hunting, however, is on the rise. A 2007 survey by Responsive Management Inc. found that eighty percent of respondents agreed that "hunting has a legitimate place in modern society," and the percentage of Americans indicating disapproval of hunting declined from 22 percent in 1995 to 16 percent in 2007.

Perhaps matching the trend among the public, green leaders are increasingly advocating cooperation between hunters and environmental groups: After all, both deplore urban sprawl and habitat destruction.

51. What does the author say sounds ironic?

- A) Some predators may often turn out to be prey of other predators.
- B) Hunting may also be a solution to the problem caused by hunting.
- C) The species of prey animals continue to vary despite humans' hunting.
- D) The number of prey animals keeps rising despite environmental change.

52. What does Glenn Kirk think of charging hunters' license fees?

- A) It keeps game population under control.
- B) It turns hunting into a sport of the rich.
- C) It leads to ecological imbalance.
- D) It helps stop killing for pleasure.

53. What is the argument of the Humane Society of the United States against hunting?

- A) Overpopulation is not an issue for most hunted animals.
- B) Hunting deprives animal populations of their food sources.
- C) Many birds and small animals are being irrationally killed.
- D) Hunting is universally acknowledged as a savage behavior.

54. When is hunting morally justifiable according to Gary E. Varner?

- A) When it benefits animals and their ecosystem.
- B) When it serves both human and animal interests.
- C) When it is indispensable to humans' subsistence.
- D) When it stabilizes the population of animal species.

55. What concept are green leaders trying to promote?

- A) Effective protection of animal habitats.
- B) Strict control over urban development.
- C) Coordinated efforts of hunters and environmentalists.
- D) A compromise between development and animal protection.

2020 年 9 月 第一套(伪 6 月 第二套)

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

It is not controversial to say that an unhealthy diet causes bad health. Nor are the basic elements of healthy eating disputed. Obesity raises susceptibility to cancer, and Britain is the sixth most obese country on Earth. That is a public health emergency. But naming the problem is the easy part. No one disputes the costs in quality of life and depleted health budgets of an obese population, but the quest for solutions gets diverted by ideological arguments around responsibility and choice. And the water is muddied by lobbying from the industries that profit from consumption of obesity-inducing products.

Historical precedent suggests that science and politics can overcome resistance from businesses that pollute and poison but it takes time, and success often starts small. So it is heartening to note that a programme in Leeds has achieved a reduction in childhood obesity, becoming the first UK city to reverse a fattening trend. The best results were among younger children and in more deprived areas. When 28% of English children aged two to 15 are obese, a national shift on the scale achieved by Leeds would lengthen hundreds of thousands of lives. A significant factor in the Leeds experience appears to be a scheme called HENRY, which helps parents reward behaviours that prevent obesity in children.

Many members of parliament are uncomfortable even with their own government's anti-obesity strategy, since it involves a "sugar tax" and a ban on the sale of energy drinks to under-16s. Bans and taxes can be blunt instruments, but their harshest critics can rarely suggest better methods. These critics just oppose regulation itself.

The relationship between poor health and inequality is too pronounced for governments to be passive about large-scale intervention. People living in the most deprived areas are four times more prone to die from avoidable causes than counterparts in more affluent places. As the structural nature of public health problems becomes harder to ignore, the complaint about overprotective government loses potency.

In fact, the polarised debate over public health interventions should have been abandoned long ago. Government action works when individuals are motivated to respond. Individuals need governments that expand access to good choices. The HENRY programme was delivered in part through children's centres. Closing such centres and cutting council budgets doesn't magically increase reserves of individual self-reliance. The function of a well-designed state intervention is not to deprive people of liberty but to build social capacity and infrastructure that helps people take responsibility for their wellbeing. The obesity crisis will not have a solution devised by left or right ideology - but experience indicates that the private sector needs the incentive of regulation before it starts taking public health emergencies seriously.

46. Why is the obesity problem in Britain so difficult to solve?

- A) Government health budgets are depleted.
- B) People disagree as to who should do what.
- C) Individuals are not ready to take their responsibilities.

- D) Industry lobbying makes it hard to get healthy foods.
47. What can we learn from the past experience in tackling public health emergencies?
- A) Governments have a role to play. B) Public health is a scientific issue.
- C) Priority should be given to deprived regions.
- D) Businesses' responsibility should be stressed.
48. What does the author imply about some critics of bans and taxes concerning unhealthy drinks?
- A) They are not aware of the consequences of obesity.
- B) They have not come up with anything more constructive.
- C) They are uncomfortable with parliament's anti-obesity debate.
- D) They have their own motives in opposing government regulation.
49. Why does the author stress the relationship between poor health and inequality?
- A) To demonstrate the dilemma of people living in deprived areas.
- B) To bring to light the root cause of widespread obesity in Britain.
- C) To highlight the area deserving the most attention from the public.
- D) To justify government intervention in solving the obesity problem.
50. When will government action be effective?
- A) When the polarised debate is abandoned. B) When ideological differences are resolved.
- C) When individuals have the incentive to act accordingly.
- D) When the private sector realises the severity of the crisis.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Home to virgin reefs, rare sharks and vast numbers of exotic fish, the Coral Sea is a unique haven of biodiversity off the northeastern coast of Australia. If a proposal by the Australian government goes ahead, the region will also become the world's largest marine protected area, with restrictions or bans on fishing, mining and marine farming.

The Coral Sea reserve would cover almost 990,000 square kilometres and stretch as far as 1,100 kilometres from the coast. Unveiled recently by environment minister Tony Burke, the proposal would be the last in a series of proposed marine reserves around Australia's coast.

But the scheme is attracting criticism from scientists and conservation groups, who argue that the government hasn't gone far enough in protecting the Coral Sea, or in other marine reserves in the coastal network.

Hugh Possingham, director of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions at the University of Queensland, points out that little more than half of the Coral Sea reserve is proposed as 'no take' area, in which all fishing would be banned. The world's largest existing marine reserve, established last year by the British government in the Indian Ocean, spans 554,000 km² and is a no-take zone throughout. An alliance of campaigning conservation groups argues that more of the Coral Sea should receive this level of protection.

"I would like to have seen more protection for coral reefs," says Terry Hughes, director of the Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University in Queensland.

"More than 20 of them would be outside the no-take area and vulnerable to catch-and-release fishing".

As Nature went to press, the Australian government had not responded to specific criticisms of the plan. But Robin Beaman, a marine geologist at James Cook University, says that the reserve does "broadly protect the range of habitats" in the sea. "I can testify to the huge effort that government agencies and other organisations have put into trying to understand the ecological values of this vast area," he says.

Reserves proposed earlier this year for Australia's southwestern and northwestern coastal regions have also been criticised for failing to give habitats adequate protection. In August, 173 marine scientists signed an open letter to the government saying they were "greatly concerned" that the proposals for the southwestern region had not been based on the "core science principles" of reserves - the protected regions were not, for instance, representative of all the habitats in the region, they said.

Critics say that the southwestern reserve offers the greatest protection to the offshore areas where commercial opportunities are fewest and where there is little threat to the environment, a contention also levelled at the Coral Sea plan.

51. What do we learn from the passage about the Coral Sea?

- A) It is exceptionally rich in marine life.
- B) It is the biggest marine protected area.
- C) It remains largely undisturbed by humans.
- D) It is a unique haven of endangered species.

52. What does the Australian government plan to do according to Tony Burke?

- A) Make a new proposal to protect the Coral Sea.
- B) Revise its conservation plan owing to criticisms.
- C) Upgrade the established reserves to protect marine life.
- D) Complete the series of marine reserves around its coast.

53. What is scientists' argument about the Coral Sea proposal?

- A) The government has not done enough for marine protection.
- B) It will not improve the marine reserves along Australia's coast.
- C) The government has not consulted them in drawing up the proposal.
- D) It is not based on sufficient investigations into the ecological system.

54. What does marine geologist Robin Beaman say about the Coral Sea plan?

- A) It can compare with the British government's effort in the Indian Ocean.
- B) It will result in the establishment of the world's largest marine reserve.
- C) It will ensure the sustainability of the fishing industry around the coast.
- D) It is a tremendous joint effort to protect the range of marine habitats.

55. What do critics think of the Coral Sea plan?

- A) It will do more harm than good to the environment.
- B) It will adversely affect Australia's fishing industry.
- C) It will protect regions that actually require little protection.
- D) It will win little support from environmental organisations.

2020 年 9 月 第二套(伪 6 月 第三套)

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Danielle Steel, the 71-year-old romance novelist is notoriously productive, having published 179 books at a rate of up to seven a year. But a passing reference in a recent profile by Glamour magazine to her 20-hour workdays prompted an outpouring of admiration.

Steel has given that 20-hour figure when describing her "exhausting" process in the past: "I start the book and don't leave my desk until the first draft is finished." She goes from bed, to desk, to bath, to bed, avoiding all contact aside from phone calls with her nine children. "I don't comb my hair for weeks," she says. Meals are brought to her desk, where she types until her fingers swell and her nails bleed.

The business news website Quartz held Steel up as an inspiration, writing that if only we all followed her "actually extremely liberating" example of industrious sleeplessness, we would be quick to see results.

Well, indeed. With research results showing the cumulative effects of sleep loss and its impact on productivity, doubt has been voiced about the accuracy of Steel's self-assessment. Her output may be undeniable, but sceptics have suggested that she is guilty of erasing the role of ghostwriters(代笔人) at worst, gross exaggeration at best.

Steel says working 20 hours a day is "pretty brutal physically." But is it even possible? "No," says Maryanne Taylor of the Sleep Works. While you could work that long, the impact on productivity would make it hardly worthwhile. If Steel was routinely sleeping for four hours a night, she would be drastically underestimating the negative impact, says Alison Gardiner, founder of the sleep improvement programme Sleepstation. "It's akin to being drunk."

It's possible that Steel is exaggerating the demands of her schedule. Self-imposed sleeplessness has "become a bit of a status symbol", says Taylor, a misguided measure to prove how powerful and productive you are. Margaret Thatcher was also said to get by on four hours a night, while the 130-hour work weeks endured by tech heads has been held up as key to their success.

That is starting to change with increased awareness of the importance of sleep for mental health. "People are starting to realise that sleep should not be something that you fit in between everything else," says Taylor.

But it is possible - if statistically extremely unlikely - that Steel could be born a "short sleeper" with an unusual body clock, says sleep expert Dr. Sophic Bostock. "It's probably present in fewer than 1% of the population."

Even if Steel does happen to be among that tiny minority, says Bostock, it's "pretty irresponsible" to suggest that 20-hour days are simply a question of discipline for the rest of us.

46. What do we learn from the passage about Glamour magazine readers?

A) They are intrigued by the exotic romance in Danielle Steel's novels.

- B) They are amazed by the number of books written by Danielle Steel.
 - C) They are deeply impressed by Danielle Steel's daily work schedule.
 - D) They are highly motivated by Danielle Steel's unusual productivity.
47. What did the business news website Quartz say about Danielle Steel?
- A) She could serve as an example of industriousness.
 - B) She proved we could liberate ourselves from sleep.
 - C) She could be an inspiration to novelists all over the world.
 - D) She showed we could get all our work done without sleep.
48. What do sceptics think of Danielle Steel's work schedule claims?
- A) They are questionable. B) They are alterable. C) They are irresistible. D) They are verifiable.
49. What does Maryanne Taylor think of self-imposed sleeplessness?
- A) It may turn out to be key to a successful career.
 - B) It may be practiced only by certain tech heads.
 - C) It may symbolise one's importance and success.
 - D) It may well serve as a measure of self-discipline.
50. How does Dr. Sophie Bostock look at the 20-hour daily work schedule?
- A) One should not adopt it without consulting a sleep expert.
 - B) The general public should not be encouraged to follow it.
 - C) One must be duly self-disciplined to adhere to it.
 - D) The majority must adjust their body clock for it.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Organic agriculture is relatively untapped resource for feeding the Earth's population, especially in the face of climate change and other global challenges. That's the conclusion I reached in reviewing 40 years of science comparing the long-term prospects of organic and conventional farming.

The review study, "Organic Agriculture in the 21st Century," is featured as the cover story for the February issue of the journal *Nature Plants*. It is the first to compare organic and conventional agriculture across the main goals of sustainability identified by the National Academy of Sciences, productivity, economics, and environment.

Critics have long argued that organic agriculture is inefficient, requiring more land to yield the same amount of food. It's true that organic farming produces lower yields, averaging 10 to 20 percent less than conventional. Advocates contend that the environmental advantages of organic agriculture far outweigh the lower yields, and that increasing research and breeding resources for organic systems would reduce the yield gap. Sometimes excluded from these arguments is the fact that we already produce enough food to more than feed the world's 7.4 billion people but do not provide adequate access to all individuals.

In some cases, organic yields can be higher than conventional. For example, in severe drought conditions, which are expected to increase with climate change in many areas, organic farms can produce as good, if not better, yields because of the higher water-holding

capacity of organically farmed soils.

What science does tell us is that mainstream conventional farming systems have provided growing supplies of food and other products but often at the expense of other sustainability goals.

Conventional agriculture may produce more food, but it often comes at a cost to the environment. Biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, and severe impacts on ecosystem services have not only accompanied conventional farming systems but have often extended well beyond their field boundaries. With organic agriculture, environmental costs tend to be lower and the benefits greater.

Overall, organic farms tend to store more soil carbon, have better soil quality, and reduce soil erosion compared to their conventional counterparts. Organic agriculture also creates less soil and water pollution and lower greenhouse gas emissions. And it's more energy-efficient because it doesn't rely on synthetic fertilizers or pesticides.

Organic agriculture is also associated with greater biodiversity of plants, animals, insects and microorganisms as well as genetic diversity. Biodiversity increases the services that nature provides and improves the ability of farming systems to adapt to changing conditions.

Despite lower yields, organic agriculture is more profitable for farmers because consumers are willing to pay more. Higher prices, called price premiums, can be justified as a way to compensate farmers for providing ecosystem services and avoiding environmental damage or external costs.

51. What do we learn from the conclusion of the author's review study?

- A) More resources should be tapped for feeding the world's population.
- B) Organic farming may be exploited to solve the global food problem.
- C) The long-term prospects of organic farming are yet to be explored.
- D) Organic farming is at least as promising as conventional farming.

52. What is the critics' argument against organic farming?

- A) It cannot meet the need for food. B) It cannot increase farm yields.
- C) It is not really practical. D) It is not that productive.

53. What does the author think should be taken into account in arguing about organic farming?

- A) Growth in world population. B) Deterioration in soil fertility.
- C) Inequality in food distribution. D) Advance in farming technology.

54. What does science tell us about conventional farming?

- A) It will not be able to meet global food demand.
- B) It is not conducive to sustainable development.
- C) It will eventually give way to organic farming.
- D) It is going mainstream throughout the world.

55. Why does the author think higher prices of organic farm produce are justifiable?

- A) They give farmers going organic a big competitive edge.
- B) They motivate farmers to upgrade farming technology.
- C) Organic farming costs more than conventional farming.
- D) Organic farming does long-term good to the ecosystem.

2020 年 12 月

第一套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Why does social media trigger feelings of loneliness and inadequacy? Because instead of being real life, it is, for the most part, impression management, a way of marketing yourself, carefully choosing and filtering the pictures and words to put your best face forward.

Online "friends" made through social media do not follow the normal psychological progression of an interpersonal relationship. You share neither physical time nor emotional conversations over the Internet. You simply communicate photographs and catchy posts to a diverse group of people whom you have "friended" or "followed" based on an accidental interaction. This is not to say that your social media friends can't be real friends. They absolutely can, but the two are not synonymous. Generally speaking, there are no unfiltered comments or casually taken photos on our social media pages. And, rightfully so, because it wouldn't feel safe to be completely authentic and vulnerable with some of our "friends" whom we don't actually know or with whom trust has yet to be built.

Social media can certainly be an escape from the daily grind, but we must be cautioned against the negative effects, such as addiction, on a person's overall psychological well-being.

As humans, we yearn for social connection. Scrolling(滚动) through pages of pictures and comments, however, does not provide the same degree of fulfillment as face to face interactions do. Also, we tend to idealize other's lives and inadequacy lives and compare our downfalls to their greatest accomplishments, ending in feelings of loneliness and inadequacy.

Social media can lead people on the unhealthy quest for perfection. Some people begin to attend certain events or travel to different places so that they can snap that "perfect" photo. They begin to seek validation through the number of people who "like" their posts. In order for it to play a psychologically healthy role in your social life, social media should supplement an already healthy social network. Pictures and posts should be byproducts of life's treasured moments and fun times, not the planned and calculated image that one is putting out into cyberspace in an attempt to fill insecurities or unmet needs.

Ultimately, social media has increased our ability to connect with various types of people all over the globe. It has opened doors for businesses and allowed us to stay connected to people whom we may not otherwise get to follow. However, social media should feel like a fun experience, not one that contributes to negative thoughts and feelings. If the latter is the case, increasing face to face time with trusted friends, and minimizing time scrolling online, will prove to be a reminder that your social network is much more rewarding

than any "like," "follow" or "share" can be.

46. What does the author imply social media may do to our life?

- A) It may facilitate our interpersonal relationships.
- B) It may filter our negative impressions of others.
- C) It may make us feel isolated and incompetent.
- D) It may render us vulnerable and inauthentic.

47. Why do people post comments selectively on social media?

- A) They do not find all their online friends trustworthy.
- B) They want to avoid offending any of their audience.
- C) They do not want to lose their followers.
- D) They are eager to boost their popularity.

48. What are humans inclined to do according to the passage?

- A) Exaggerate their life's accomplishments.
- B) Strive for perfection regardless of the cost.
- C) Paint a rosy picture of other people's lives.
- D) Learn lessons from other people's downfalls.

49. What is the author's view of pictures and posts on social media?

- A) They should record the memorable moments in people's lives.
- B) They should be carefully edited so as to present the best image.
- C) They should be shown in a way that meets one's security needs.
- D) They should keep people from the unhealthy quest for perfection.

50. What does the author advise people to do when they find their online experience unconstructive?

- A) Use social media to increase their ability to connect with various types of people.
- B) Stay connected to those whom they may not otherwise get to know and befriend.
- C) Try to prevent negative thoughts and feelings from getting into the online pages.
- D) Strengthen ties with real-life friends instead of caring about their online image.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Imagine that an alien species landed on Earth and, through their mere presence, those aliens caused our art to vanish, our music to homogenize, and our technological know-how to disappear. That is effectively what humans have been doing to our closest relatives - chimps(大猩猩).

Back in 1999, a team of scientists led by Andrew Whiten showed that chimps from different parts of Africa behave very differently from one another. Some groups would get each other's attention by rapping branches with their knuckles(指关节), while others did it by loudly ripping leaves with their teeth. The team identified 39 of these traditions that are practiced by some communities but not others - a pattern that, at the time, hadn't been seen in any animal except humans. It was evidence, the team said, that chimps have their own cultures.

It took a long time to convince skeptics that such cultures exist, but now we have plenty of examples of animals learning local traditions from one another.

But just when many scientists have come to accept the existence of animal cultures,

many of those cultures might vanish. Ammie Kalan and her colleagues have shown, through years of intensive fieldwork, that the very presence of humans has eroded the diversity of chimp behavior. Where we flourish, their cultures wither. It is a bitterly ironic thing to learn on the 20th anniversary of Whiten's classic study.

"It's amazing to think that just 60 years ago, we knew next to nothing of the behavior of our sister species in the wild," Whiten says. "But now, just as we are truly getting to know our primate(灵长类) cousins, the actions of humans are closing the window on all we have discovered."

"Sometimes in the rush to conserve the species, I think we forget about the individuals," says Cat Hobaiter, a professor at the University of St. Andrews. "Each population, each community, even each generation of chimps is unique. An event might only have a small impact on the total population of chimps, but it may wipe out an entire community - an entire culture. No matter what we do to restore habitat or support population growth, we may never be able to restore that culture."

No one knows whether the destruction of chimp culture is getting worse. Few places have tracked chimp behavior over long periods, and those that have are also more likely to have protected their animals from human influence.

Obviously conservationists need to think about saving species in a completely new way - by preserving animal traditions as well as bodies and genes. "Instead of focusing only on the conservation of genetically based entities like species, we now need to also consider culturally based entities," says Andrew Whiten.

51. What does the author say we humans have been doing to chimps?

- A) Ruining their culture. B) Accelerating their extinction.
- C) Treating them as alien species. D) Homogenizing their living habits.

52. What is the finding of Andrew Whiten's team?

- A) Chimps demonstrate highly developed skills of communication.
- B) Chimps rely heavily upon their body language to communicate.
- C) Chimps behave in ways quite similar to those of human beings.
- D) Different chimp groups differ in their way of communication.

53. What did Ammie Kalan and her colleagues find through their intensive fieldwork?

- A) Whiten's classic study has little impact on the diversity of chimp behavior.
- B) Chimp behavior becomes less varied with the increase of human activity.
- C) Chimps alter their culture to quickly adapt to the changed environment.
- D) It might already be too late to prevent animal cultures from extinction.

54. What does Cat Hobaiter think we should do for chimp conservation?

- A) Try to understand our sister species' behavior in the wild.
- B) Make efforts to preserve each individual chimp community.
- C) Study the unique characteristics of each generation of chimps.
- D) Endeavor to restore chimp habitats to expand its total population.

55. What does the author suggest conservationists do?

- A) Focus entirely on culturally-based entities rather than genetically-based ones.
- B) Place more stress on animal traditions than on their physical conservation.
- C) Conserve animal species in a novel and all-round way.
- D) Explore the cultures of species before they vanish.

第二套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

What is the place of art in a culture of inattention? Recent visitors to the Louvre report that tourists can now spend only a minute in front of the Mona Lisa before being asked to move on. Much of that time, for some of them, is spent taking photographs not even of the painting but of themselves with the painting in the background.

One view is that we have democratised tourism and gallery-going so much that we have made it effectively impossible to appreciate what we've travelled to see. In this oversubscribed society, experience becomes a commodity like any other. There are queues to climb Mt. Jolmo Lungma as well as to see famous paintings. Leisure, thus conceived, is hard labour, and returning to work becomes a well-earned break from the ordeal.

What gets lost in this industrialised haste is the quality of looking. Consider an extreme example, the late philosopher Richard Wollheim. When he visited the Louvre he could spend as much as four hours sitting before a painting. The first hour, he claimed, was necessary for misperceptions to be eliminated. It was only then that the picture would begin to disclose itself. This seems unthinkable today, but it is still possible to organise. Even in the busiest museums there are many rooms and many pictures worth hours of contemplation which the crowds largely ignore. Sometimes the largest crowds are partly the products of bad management; the Mona Lisa is such a hurried experience today partly because the museum is being reorganised. The Uffizi in Florence, another site of cultural pilgrimage, has cut its entry queues down to seven minutes by clever management. And there are some forms of art, those designed to be spectacles as well as objects of contemplation, which can work perfectly well in the face of huge crowds.

Olafur Eliasson's current Tate Modern show, for instance, might seem nothing more than an entertainment, overrun as it is with kids romping(喧闹地玩耍) in fog rooms and spray mist installations. But it's more than that: where Eliasson is at his most entertaining, he is at his most serious too, and his disorienting installations bring home the reality of the destructive effects we are having on the planet - not least what we are doing to the glaciers of Eliasson's beloved Iceland.

Marcel Proust, another lover of the Louvre, wrote: "It is only through art that we can escape from ourselves and know how another person sees the universe, whose landscapes would otherwise have remained as unknown as any on the moon." If any art remains worth seeing, it must lead us to such escapes. But a minute in front of a painting in a hurried crowd won't do that.

46. What does the scene at the Louvre demonstrate according to the author?

- A) The enormous appeal of a great piece of artistic work to tourists.
- B) The near impossibility of appreciating art in an age of mass tourism.
- C) The ever-growing commercial value of long-cherished artistic works.

- D) The real difficulty in getting a glimpse at a masterpiece amid a crowd.
47. Why did the late philosopher Richard Wollheim spend four hours before a picture?
- A) It takes time to appreciate a piece of art fully.
- B) It is quite common to misinterpret artistic works.
- C) The longer people contemplate a picture, the more likely they will enjoy it.
- D) The more time one spends before a painting, the more valuable one finds it.
48. What does the case of the Uffizi in Florence show?
- A) Art works in museums should be better taken care of.
- B) Sites of cultural pilgrimage are always flooded with visitors.
- C) Good management is key to handling large crowds of visitors.
- D) Large crowds of visitors cause management problems for museums.
49. What do we learn from Olafur Eliasson's current Tate Modern show?
- A) Children learn to appreciate art works most effectively while they are playing.
- B) It is possible to combine entertainment with appreciation of serious art.
- C) Art works about the environment appeal most to young children.
- D) Some forms of art can accommodate huge crowds of visitors.
50. What can art do according to Marcel Proust?
- A) Enable us to live a much fuller life. B) Allow us to escape the harsh reality.
- C) Help us to see the world from a different perspective.
- D) Urge us to explore the unknown domain of the universe.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Every five years, the government tries to tell Americans what to put in their bellies. Eat more vegetables. Dial back the fats. It's all based on the best available science for leading a healthy life. But the best available science also has a lot to say about what those food choices do to the environment, and some researchers are annoyed that new dietary recommendations of the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) released yesterday seem to utterly ignore that fact.

Broadly, the 2016-2020 dietary recommendations aim for balance; More vegetables, leaner meats and far less sugar.

But Americans consume more calories per capita than almost any other country in the world. So the things Americans eat have a huge impact on climate change. Soil tilling releases carbon dioxide, and delivery vehicles emit exhaust. The government's dietary guidelines could have done a lot to lower that climate cost. Not just because of their position of authority: the guidelines drive billions of dollars of food production through federal programs like school lunches and nutrition assistance for the needy.

On its own, plant and animal agriculture contribute 9 percent of all the country's greenhouse gas emissions. That's not counting the fuel burned in transportation, processing, refrigeration, and other waypoints between farm and belly. Red meats are among the biggest and most notorious emitters, but trucking a salad from California to Minnesota in January also carries a significant burden. And greenhouse gas emissions aren't the whole

story. Food production is the largest user of fresh water, largest contributor to the loss of biodiversity, and a major contributor to using up natural resources.

All of these points and more showed up in the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee's scientific report, released last February. Miriam Nelson chaired the subcommittee in charge of sustainability for the report, and is disappointed that eating less meat and buying local food aren't in the final product. "Especially if you consider that eating less meat, especially red and processed, has health benefits," she says.

So what happened? The official response is that sustainability falls too far outside the guidelines' official scope, which is to provide "nutritional and dietary information."

Possibly the agencies in charge of drafting the decisions are too close to the industries they are supposed to regulate. On one hand, the USDA is compiling dietary advice. On the other, their clients are US agriculture companies.

The line about keeping the guidelines' scope to nutrition and diet doesn't ring quite right with researchers. David Wallinga, for example, says, "In previous guidelines, they've always been concerned with things like food security - which is presumably the mission of the USDA. You absolutely need to be worried about climate impacts and future sustainability if you want secure food in the future."

51. Why are some researchers irritated at the USDA's 2016-2020 Dietary Guidelines?

- A) It ignores the harmful effect of red meat and processed food on health.
- B) Too much emphasis is given to eating less meat and buying local food.
- C) The dietary recommendations are not based on medical science.
- D) It takes no notice of the potential impact on the environment.

52. Why does the author say the USDA could have contributed a lot to lowering the climate cost through its dietary guidelines?

- A) It has the capacity and the financial resources to do so.
- B) Its researchers have already submitted relevant proposals.
- C) Its agencies in charge of drafting the guidelines have the expertise.
- D) It can raise students' environmental awareness through its programs.

53. What do we learn from the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee's scientific report?

- A) Food is easily contaminated from farm to belly.
- B) Greenhouse effect is an issue still under debate.
- C) Modern agriculture has increased food diversity.
- D) Farming consumes most of our natural resources.

54. What may account for the neglect of sustainability in the USDA's Dietary Guidelines according to the author?

- A) Its exclusive concern with Americans' food safety.
- B) Its sole responsibility for providing dietary advice.
- C) Its close ties with the agriculture companies.
- D) Its alleged failure to regulate the industries.

55. What should the USDA do to achieve food security according to David Wallinga?

- A) Give top priority to things like nutrition and food security.
- B) Endeavor to ensure the sustainable development of agriculture.
- C) Fulfill its mission by closely cooperating with the industries.
- D) Study the long-term impact of climate change on food production.

第三套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Vegetarians would prefer not to be compelled to eat meat. Yet the reverse compulsion(强迫) is hidden in the proposals for a new plant-based "planetary diet." Nowhere is this more visible than in India.

Earlier this year, the EAT-Lancet Commission released its global report on nutrition and called for a global shift to a more plant-based diet and for "substantially reducing consumption of animal source foods." In countries like India, that call could become a tool to aggravate an already tense political situation and stress already undernourished populations.

The EAT report presumes that "traditional diets" in countries like India include little red meat, which might be consumed only on special occasions or as minor ingredients in mixed dishes.

In India, however, there is a vast difference between what people would wish to consume and what they have to consume because of innumerable barriers around class, religion, culture, cost, geography, etc. Policymakers in India have traditionally pushed for a cereal-heavy "vegetarian diet" on a meat-eating population as a way of providing the cheapest sources of food.

Currently, under an aggressive Hindu nationalist government, Muslims, Christians, disadvantaged classes and indigenous communities are being compelled to give up their traditional foods.

None of these concerns seem to have been appreciated by the EAT-Lancet Commission's representative, Brent Loken, who said "India has got such a great example" in sourcing protein from plants.

But how much a model for the world is India's vegetarianism? In the Global Hunger Index 2019, the country ranks 102nd out of 117. Data from the National Family Health Survey indicate that only 10 percent of infants of 6 to 23 months are adequately fed.

Which is why calls for a plant-based diet modeled on India risk offering another whip with which to beat already vulnerable communities in developing countries.

A diet directed at the affluent West fails to recognize that in low-income countries undernourished children are known to benefit from the consumption of milk and other animal source foods, improving cognitive functions, while reducing the prevalence of nutritional deficiencies as well as mortality.

EAT-Lancet claimed its intention was to "spark conversations" among all Indian stakeholders. Yet vocal critics of the food processing industry and food fortification strategies have been left out of the debate. But the most conspicuous omission may well be the absence of India's farmers.

The government, however, seems to have given the report a thumbs-up. Rather than addressing chronic hunger and malnutrition through an improved access to wholesome and

nutrient-dense foods, the government is opening the door for company-dependent solutions, ignoring the environmental and economic cost, which will destroy local food systems. It's a model full of danger for future generations.

46. What is more visible in India than anywhere else according to the passage?

- A) People's positive views on the proposals for a "planetary diet."
- B) People's reluctance to be compelled to eat plant-based food.
- C) People's preferences for the kind of food they consume.
- D) People's unwillingness to give up their eating habits.

47. What would the EAT-Lancet Commission's report do to many people in countries like India?

- A) Radically change their dietary habits. B) Keep them further away from politics.
- C) Make them even more undernourished. D) Substantially reduce their food choices.

48. What do we learn from the passage about food consumption in India?

- A) People's diet will not change due to the EAT-Lancet report.
- B) Many people simply do not have access to foods they prefer.
- C) There is a growing popularity of a cereal-heavy vegetarian diet.
- D) Policymakers help remove the barriers to people's choice of food.

49. What does the passage say about a plant-based diet modeled on India?

- A) It may benefit populations whose traditional diet is meat-based.
- B) It may be another blow to the economy in developing countries.
- C) It may help narrow the gap between the rich and poor countries.
- D) It may worsen the nourishment problem in low-income countries.

50. How does the Indian government respond to the EAT-Lancet Commission's proposals?

- A) It accepts them at the expense of the long-term interests of its people.
- B) It intends them to spark conversations among all Indian stakeholders.
- C) It gives them approval regardless of opposition from nutrition experts.
- D) It welcomes them as a tool to address chronic hunger and malnutrition.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Back in 1964, in his book *Games People Play*, psychiatrist Eric Berne described a pattern of conversation he called "Why Don't You - Yes But", which remains one of the most irritating aspects of everyday social life. The person adopting the strategy is usually a chronic complainer. Something is terrible about their relationship, job, or other situation, and they moan about it ceaselessly, but find some excuse to dismiss any solution that's proposed. The reason, of course, is that on some level they don't want a solution; they want to be validated in their position that the world is out to get them. If they can "win" the game - dismissing every suggestion until their interlocutor(对话者) gives up in annoyance - they get to feel pleasurably righteous(正当的) in their resentments and excused from any obligation to change.

Part of the trouble here is the so-called responsibility/fault fallacy(谬误). When you're feeling hard done by - taken for granted by your partner, say, or obliged to work for a

half-witted boss - it's easy to become attached to the position that it's not your job to address the matter, and that doing so would be an admission of fault. But there's a confusion here. For example, if I were to discover a newborn at my front door, it wouldn't be my fault, but it most certainly would be my responsibility. There would be choices to make, and no possibility of avoiding them, since trying to ignore the matter would be a choice. The point is that what goes for the baby on the door step is true in all cases: even if the other person is 100% in the wrong, there's nothing to be gained, long-term, from using this as a justification to evade responsibility.

Should you find yourself on the receiving end of this kind of complaining, there's an ingenious way to shut it down - which is to agree with it, ardently. Psychotherapist Lori Gottlieb describes this as "over-validation". For one thing, you'll be spared further moaning, since the other person's motivation was to confirm her beliefs, and now you're confirming them. But for another, as Gottlieb notes, people confronted with over-validation often hear their complaints afresh and start arguing back. The notion that they're utterly powerless suddenly seems unrealistic - not to mention rather annoying - so they're prompted instead to generate ideas about how they might change things.

And then, sometimes, something magical might happen, Gottlieb writes. The other person "might realise she's not as trapped as you are saying she is, or as she feels." Which illustrates the irony of the responsibility/fault fallacy: evading responsibility feels comfortable, but turns out to be a prison; whereas assuming responsibility feels unpleasant, but ends up being freeing.

51. What is characteristic of a chronic complainer, according to psychiatrist Eric Berne?

- A) They only feel angry about their ill treatment and resent whoever tries to help.
- B) They are chronically unhappy and ceaselessly find fault with people around them.
- C) They constantly dismiss others' proposals while taking no responsibility for tackling the problem.
- D) They lack the knowledge and basic skills required for successful conversations with their interlocutors.

52. What does the author try to illustrate with the example of the newborn on one's doorstep?

- A) People tend to think that one should not be held responsible for others' mistakes.
- B) It is easy to become attached to the position of overlooking one's own fault.
- C) People are often at a loss when confronted with a number of choices.
- D) A distinction should be drawn between responsibility and fault.

53. What does the author advise people to do to chronic complainers?

- A) Stop them from going further by agreeing with them.
- B) Listen to their complaints ardently and sympathetically.
- C) Ask them to validate their beliefs with further evidence.
- D) Persuade them to clarify the confusion they have caused.

54. What happens when chronic complainers receive over-validation?

- A) They are motivated to find ingenious ways to persuade their interlocutor.
- B) They are prompted to come up with ideas for making possible changes.
- C) They are stimulated to make more complaints.
- D) They are encouraged to start arguing back.

55. How can one stop being a chronic complainer according to the author?

A) Analysing the so-called responsibility/fault fallacy.

B) Avoiding hazardous traps in everyday social life.

C) Assuming responsibility to free oneself.

D) Awaiting something magical to happen.

2021 年 6 月

第一套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

You can't see it, smell it, or hear it, and people disagree on how precisely to define it, or where exactly it comes from. It isn't a school subject or an academic discipline, but it can be learned. It is a quality that is required of artists, but it is also present in the lives of scientists and entrepreneurs. All of us benefit from it and we thrive mentally and spiritually when we are able to wield it. It is a delicate thing, easily stamped out; in fact, it flourishes most fully when people are playful and childlike. Meanwhile, it works best in conjunction with deep knowledge and expertise.

This mysterious - but teachable - quality is creativity, the subject of a recently-published report by Durham Commission on Creativity, and Education: The report concludes that creativity should not inhabit the school curriculum only as it relates to drama, music, art and other obviously creative subjects, but that creative thinking ought to run through all of school life, infusing(充满) the way humanities and natural sciences are learned.

The authors, who focus on education in England, offer a number of sensible recommendations, some of which are an attempt to alleviate the uninspiring and fact-based approach to education that has crept into policy in recent years. When children are regarded as vessels to be filled with facts, creativity does not prosper; nor does it when teachers' sole objective is coaching children towards exams. One suggestion from the commission is a network of teacher-led "creativity collaboratives", along the lines of existing maths hubs(中心), with the aim of supporting teaching for creativity through the school curriculum.

Nevertheless, it is arts subjects through which creativity can most obviously be fostered. The value placed on them by the independent education sector is clear. One only has to look at the remarkable arts facilities at Britain's top private schools to comprehend this. But in the state sector the excessive focus on English, maths and science threatens to crush arts subjects; meanwhile, reduced school budgets mean diminishing extracurricular activities. There has been a 28.1% decline in students taking creative subjects at high schools since 2014, though happily, art and design have seen a recent increase.

This discrepancy between state and private education is a matter of social justice. It is simply wrong and unfair that most children have a fraction of the access to choirs, orchestras, art studios and drama that their more privileged peers enjoy. As lives are affected by any number of looming challenges - climate crisis, automation in the workplace - humans are going to need creative thinking more than ever. For all of our sakes, creativity in education, and for all, must become a priority.

46. What do we learn from the passage about creativity?

A) It develops best when people are spiritually prepared.

- B) It is most often wielded by scientists and entrepreneurs.
 - C) It is founded on scientific knowledge and analytical skills.
 - D) It contributes to intellectual growth but can easily be killed.
47. What is the conclusion of a recently-published report?
- A) Natural sciences should be learned the way humanities courses are.
 - B) Cultivation of creativity should permeate the entire school curriculum.
 - C) Art courses should be made compulsory for all students.
 - D) Students should learn more obviously creative subjects.
48. What does the report say is detrimental to the fostering of creativity?
- A) Alleviation of pressure. B) Teacher-led school activities.
 - C) Test-oriented teaching. D) Independent learning.
49. What do we learn about the private schools in the UK?
- A) They encourage extracurricular activities.
 - B) They attach great importance to arts education.
 - C) They prioritize arts subjects over maths and sciences.
 - D) They cater to students from different family backgrounds.
50. What should be done to meet the future challenges?
- A) Increasing government investment in school education.
 - B) Narrowing the existing gap between the rich and the poor.
 - C) Providing all children with equal access to arts education.
 - D) Focusing on meeting the needs of under-privileged students.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Emulating your conversation partner's actions is a common human behavior classified as "mirroring" and has been known and studied by psychologists for years. We all tend to subconsciously copy gestures of people we like. But why do we act like this?

As a rule, mirroring means that conversationalists enjoy their communication and that there's a certain level of agreement between them. The topic of discussion is equally interesting for both and they know their interests meet.

Repeating someone's behavior is typical of talented communicators, not always because the person is sympathetic, but because there is a goal to be achieved. This way new idols have been brought to the stage: politicians, celebrities, and other big names. Popular culture makes people want to look popular, and act and speak like popular people.

Nowadays celebrities steal lyrics from each other and struggle with copyright violation accusations or straightforwardly claim themselves to be the authors, even though all the work was done by other people.

Among celebrities, it's trendy nowadays to use their own speech writers as politicians do. The so-called "ghostwriting" can take various forms: books, articles, autobiographies, and even social media posts.

Who is a true copycat(抄袭者) and who gets copycatted? Sometimes, it is a hard nut to crack without an expert's help. But new authorship defending methods based on identifying

individual writing patterns are already here. Their aim is to protect intellectual property. Using scientific methods, some of them can define authorship with 85% accuracy.

Writing is not an easy craft to master. If you want to write like a professional without plagiarism(抄袭), there are a few lessons to learn and the first one is: "Copy from one, it's plagiarism; copy from two, it's research." The correct interpretation of this statement is not about copying, but rather about creating your own style. When you study an author's writing style, don't stop on a single one, but explore numerous styles instead. Examine types of sentences they use, pay attention to their metaphors, and focus on stories you feel you could write a pretty cool sequel(续篇) to.

Imitation is rather paradoxical. As an integral part of learning, it brings about positive changes, making people develop and grow. However, it may do a lot of harm. Copying someone's thoughts, ideas or inventions is completely unacceptable. It infringes on intellectual property rights of others.

Still, many things we do are about copying others one way or another. So if you want to compliment someone on the work they have done and imitate it, just make sure you do it the right way to avoid committing plagiarism.

51. What do people tend to do while engaging in a conversation?

- A) Repeat what their partners say one way or another.
- B) Focus as much as possible on topics of mutual interest.
- C) Imitate their partners' gestures without their knowing it.
- D) Observe carefully how their partners make use of gestures.

52. When does mirroring usually take place in a conversation?

- A) When both sides are sympathetic with each other.
- B) When both sides have a lot of things in common.
- C) When both sides make interesting contributions.
- D) When both sides try to seek common ground.

53. What do we learn about popular culture?

- A) It encourages people to imitate. B) It appeals mostly to big names.
- C) It acquaints young people with their idols. D) It can change people's mode of cognition.

54. Why is the saying "copy from two, it's research" a lesson to learn?

- A) It facilitates the creation of one's own writing style.
- B) It helps to protect one's intellectual property rights.
- C) It fosters correct interpretation of professional writing.
- D) It enables one to write intriguing sequels to famous stories.

55. Why does the author say imitation is rather paradoxical?

- A) It is liable to different interpretations. B) It is by and large a necessary evil.
- C) It can give rise to endless disputes. D) It may do harm as well as good.

第二套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Humans are fascinated by the source of their failings and virtues. This preoccupation inevitably leads to an old debate: whether nature or nurture moulds us more. A revolution in genetics has poised this as a modern political question about the character of our society: if personalities are hard-wired into our genes, what can governments do to help us? It feels morally questionable, yet claims of genetic selection by intelligence are making headlines.

This is down to "hereditarian"(遗传论的) science and a recent paper claimed "differences in exam performance between pupils attending selective and non-selective schools mirror the genetic differences between them". With such an assertion, the work was predictably greeted by a lot of absurd claims about "genetics determining academic success". What the research revealed was the rather less surprising result: the educational benefits of selective schools largely disappear once pupils' inborn ability and socio-economic background were taken into account. It is a glimpse of the blindingly obvious - and there's nothing to back strongly either a hereditary or environmental argument.

Yet the paper does say children are "unintentionally genetically selected" by the school system. Central to hereditarian science is a tall claim: that identifiable variations in genetic sequences can predict an individual's aptness to learn, reason and solve problems. This is problematic on many levels. A teacher could not seriously tell a parent their child has a low genetic tendency to study when external factors clearly exist. Unlike-minded academics say the inheritability of human traits is scientifically unsound. At best there is a weak statistical association and not a causal link between DNA and intelligence. Yet sophisticated statistics are used to create an intimidatory atmosphere of scientific certainty.

While there's an undoubted genetic basis to individual difference, it is wrong to think that socially defined groups can be genetically accounted for. The fixation on genes as destiny is surely false too. Medical predictability can rarely be based on DNA alone; the environment matters too. Something as complex as intellect is likely to be affected by many factors beyond genes. If hereditarians want to advance their cause it will require more balanced interpretation and not just acts of advocacy.

Genetic selection is a way of exerting influence over others, "the ultimate collective control of human destinies," as writer H. G. Wells put it. Knowledge becomes power and power requires a sense of responsibility. In understanding cognitive ability, we must not elevate discrimination to a science: allowing people to climb the ladder of life only as far as their cells might suggest. This will need a more sceptical eye on the science. As technology progresses, we all have a duty to make sure that we shape a future that we would want to find ourselves in.

46. What did a recent research paper claim?

- A) The type of school students attend makes a difference to their future.
- B) Genetic differences between students are far greater than supposed.
- C) The advantages of selective schools are too obvious to ignore.

- D) Students' academic performance is determined by their genes.
47. What does the author think of the recent research?
- A) Its result was questionable. B) Its implication was positive.
C) Its influence was rather negligible. D) Its conclusions were enlightening.
48. What does the author say about the relationship between DNA and intelligence?
- A) It is one of scientific certainty. B) It is not one of cause and effect.
C) It is subject to interpretation of statistics. D) It is not fully examined by gene scientists.
49. What do hereditarians need to do to make their claims convincing?
- A) Take all relevant factors into account in interpreting their data.
B) Conduct their research using more sophisticated technology.
C) Gather gene data from people of all social classes.
D) Cooperate with social scientists in their research.
50. What does the author warn against in the passage?
- A) Exaggerating the power of technology in shaping the world.
B) Losing sight of professional ethics in conducting research.
C) Misunderstanding the findings of human cognition research.
D) Promoting discrimination in the name of science.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Nicola Sturgeon's speech last Tuesday setting out the Scottish government's legislative programme for the year ahead confirmed what was already pretty clear. Scottish councils are set to be the first in the UK with the power to levy charges on visitors, with Edinburgh likely to lead the way.

Tourist taxes are not new. The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan has a longstanding policy of charging visitors a daily fee. France's tax on overnight stays was introduced to assist thermal spa(温泉) towns to develop, and around half of French local authorities use it today.

But such levies are on the rise. Moves by Barcelona and Venice to deal with the phenomenon of "over-tourism" through the use of charges have recently gained prominence. Japan and Greece are among the countries to have recently introduced tourist taxes.

That the UK lags behind is due to our weak, by international standards, local government, as well as the opposition to taxes and regulation of our aggressively pro-market ruling party. Some UK cities have lobbied without success for the power to levy a charge on visitors. Such levies are no universal remedy as the amounts raised would be tiny compared with what has been taken away by central government since 2010. Still, it is to be hoped that the Scottish government's bold move will prompt others to act. There is no reason why visitors to the UK, or domestic tourists on holiday in hotspots such as Cornwall, should be exempt from taxation - particularly when vital local services including waste collection, park maintenance and arts and culture spending are under unprecedented strain.

On the contrary, compelling tourists to make a financial contribution to the places they visit beyond their personal consumption should be part of a wider cultural shift. Westerners

with disposable incomes have often behaved as if they have a right to go wherever they choose with little regard for the consequences. Just as the environmental harm caused by aviation and other transport must come under far greater scrutiny, the social cost of tourism must also be confronted. This includes the impact of short-term lets on housing costs and quality of life for residents. Several European capitals, including Paris and Berlin, are leading a campaign for tougher regulation by the European Union. It also includes the impact of overcrowding, litter and the kinds of behaviour associated with noisy parties.

There is no "one size fits all" solution to this problem. The existence of new revenue streams for some but not all councils is complicated, and businesses are often opposed, fearing higher costs will make them uncompetitive. But those places that want them must be given the chance to make tourist taxes work.

51. What do we learn from Nicola Sturgeon's speech?

- A) The UK is set to adjust its policy on taxation.
- B) Tourists will have to pay a tax to visit Scotland.
- C) The UK will take new measures to boost tourism.
- D) Edinburgh contributes most to Scotland's tourism.

52. How come the UK has been slow in imposing the tourist tax?

- A) Its government wants to attract more tourists.
- B) The tax is unlikely to add much to its revenue.
- C) Its ruling party is opposed to taxes and regulation.
- D) It takes time for local governments to reach consensus.

53. Both international and domestic visitors in the UK should pay tourist tax so as to _____.

- A) elevate its tourism to international standards
- B) improve the welfare of its maintenance workers
- C) promote its cultural exchange with other nations
- D) ease its financial burden of providing local services

54. What does the author say about western tourists?

- A) They don't seem to care about the social cost of tourism.
- B) They don't seem to mind paying for additional services.
- C) They deem travel an important part of their life.
- D) They subject the effects of tourism to scrutiny.

55. What are UK people's opinions about the levy of tourist tax?

- A) Supportive. B) Skeptical. C) Divided. D) Unclear.

第三套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

We often think of drawing as something that takes inborn talent, but this kind of thinking stems from our misclassification of drawing as, primarily, an art form rather than a tool for learning.

Researchers, teachers, and artists are starting to see how drawing can positively impact a wide variety of skills and disciplines.

Most of us have spent some time drawing before, but at some point, most of us stop drawing. There are people who don't, obviously, and thank god for that: a world without designers and artists would be a very shabby one indeed.

Some argue that so many adults have abandoned drawing because we've miscategorized it and given it a very narrow definition. In his book, *Stick Figures; Drawing as a Human Practice*, Professor D.B. Dowd argues that we have misfiled the significance of drawing because we see it as a professional skill instead of a personal capacity. We mistakenly think of "good" drawings as those which work as recreations of the real world, as realistic illusions. Rather, drawing should be recategorized as a symbolic tool.

Human beings have been drawing for 73,000 years. It's part of what it means to be human. We don't have the strength of chimpanzees(大猩猩) because we've given up animal strength to manipulate subtle instruments, like hammers, spears, and - later-pens and pencils. The human hand is an extremely dense network of nerve endings. In many ways, human beings are built to draw.

Some researchers argue that doodling(涂画) activates the brain's so-called default circuit essentially, the areas of the brain responsible for maintaining a baseline level of activity in the absence of other stimuli. Because of this, some believe that doodling during a boring lecture can help students pay attention. In one study, participants were asked to listen to a list of names while either doodling or sitting still. Those who doodled remembered 29 percent more of the names than those who did not.

There's also evidence that drawing talent is based on how accurately someone perceives the world. The human visual system tends to misjudge size, shape, color, and angles but artists perceive these qualities more accurately than non-artists. Cultivating drawing talent can become an essential tool to improve people's observational skills in fields where the visual is important.

Rather than think of drawing as a talent that some creative people are gifted in, we should consider it as a tool for seeing and understanding the world better - one that just so happens to double as an art form. Both absent-minded doodling and copying from life have been shown to positively affect your memory and visual perception, so complain loudly the next time your school board slashes the art department's budget.

46. What do people generally think about drawing?

- A) It is a gift creative people are endowed with.
- B) It is a skill that is acquired with practice.
- C) It is an art form that is appreciated by all.
- D) It is an ability everyone should cultivate.

47. What do we learn about designers and artists?

- A) They are declining gradually in number.
- B) They are keen on changing shabby surroundings.
- C) They add beauty and charm to the world.
- D) They spend most of their lives drawing.

48. What does Professor D. B. Dowd argue in his book?

- A) Everybody is born with the capacity to draw.
- B) Drawing is a skill that requires special training.
- C) The value of drawing tends to be overestimated.

- D) Drawing should be redefined as a realistic illusion.
49. What have some researchers found from one study about doodling?
- A) It is a must for maintaining a base level of brain activity.
B) It can turn something boring into something interesting.
C) It is the most reliable stimulant to activate the brain.
D) It helps improve concentration and memory.
50. What is characteristic of people with drawing talent?
- A) Sensitivity to cognitive stimulation. B) Subtlety of representation.
C) Accuracy in categorization. D) Precision in visual perception.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

The car has reshaped our cities. It seems to offer autonomy for everyone. There is something almost delightful in the detachment from reality of advertisements showing mass-produced cars marketed as symbols of individuality and of freedom when most of their lives will be spent making short journeys on choked roads.

For all the fuss made about top speeds, cornering ability and acceleration, the most useful gadgets on a modern car are those which work when you're going very slowly: parking sensors, sound systems, and navigation apps which will show a way around upcoming traffic jams. This seems to be one of the few areas where the benefit of sharing personal information comes straight back to the sharer: because these apps know where almost all the users are, and how fast they are moving almost all the time, they can spot traffic congestion(堵塞) very quickly and suggest ways round it.

The problem comes when everyone is using a navigation app which tells them to avoid everyone else using the same gadget. Traffic jams often appear where no one has enough information to avoid them. When a lucky few have access to the knowledge, they will benefit greatly. But when everyone has perfect information, traffic jams simply spread onto the side roads that seem to offer a way round them.

This new congestion teaches us two things. The first is that the promises of technology will never be realised as fully as we hope; they will be limited by their unforeseen and unintended consequences. Sitting in a more comfortable car in a different traffic jam is pleasant but hardly the liberation that once seemed to be promised. The second is that self-organisation will not get us where we want to go. The efforts of millions of drivers to get ahead do not miraculously produce a situation in which everyone does better than before, but one in which almost everyone does rather worse. Central control and collective organisation can produce smoother and fairer outcomes, though even that much is never guaranteed.

Similar limits can be foreseen for the much greater advances promised by self-driving cars. Last week, one operated by the taxi company Uber struck and killed a woman pushing her bicycle across a wide road in Arizona. This was the first recorded death involving a car which was supposed to be fully autonomous. Experts have said that it suggests a "catastrophic failure" of technology.

Increasingly, even Silicon Valley has to acknowledge the costs of the intoxicating(令人陶醉的) hurry that characterises its culture. What traffic teaches us is that reckless and uncontrolled change is as likely to harm us as it is to benefit us, and that thoughtful regulation is necessary for a better future.

51. What does the author say about car advertisements?

- A) They portray drivers who enjoy speed on the road.
- B) They present a false picture of the autonomy cars provide.
- C) They pursue individuality and originality in design concept.
- D) They overestimate the potential market of autonomous cars.

52. What does the author imply about the various gadgets on cars?

- A) They can help to alleviate traffic jams. B) Most of them are as effective as advertised.
- C) Only some can be put to use under current traffic conditions.
- D) They are constantly upgraded to make driving easier and safer.

53. What does the author say about the use of navigation apps?

- A) It is likely to create traffic jams in other places.
- B) It helps a great deal in easing traffic congestion.
- C) It sharply reduces the incidence of traffic accidents.
- D) It benefits those who are learning to drive.

54. What does the author say about technology?

- A) Its consequences are usually difficult to assess.
- B) It seldom delivers all the benefits as promised.
- C) It depends on the required knowledge for application.
- D) Its benefits are guaranteed by collective wisdom.

55. What key message does the author try to convey in the passage?

- A) The consequences of technological innovation need not be exaggerated.
- B) There is always a price to pay to develop technology for a better world.
- C) Technological innovation should be properly regulated.
- D) The culture of Silicon Valley ought not to be emulated.

2021 年 12 月

第一套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Social media is absolutely everywhere. Billions of people use social media on a daily basis to create, share, and exchange ideas, messages, and information. Both individuals and businesses post regularly to engage and interact with people from around the world. It is a powerful communication medium that simultaneously provides immediate, frequent, permanent, and wide-reaching information across the globe.

People post their lives on social media for the world to see. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and countless other social channels provide a quick and simple way to glimpse into a job candidate's personal life - both the positive and negative sides of it. Social media screening is tempting to use as part of the hiring process, but should employers make use of it when researching a potential candidate's background?

Incorporating the use of social media to screen job candidates is not an uncommon practice. A 2018 survey found that almost 70% of employers use social media to screen candidates before hiring them. But there are consequences and potential legal risks involved too. When done inappropriately, social media screening can be considered unethical or even illegal.

Social media screening is essentially scrutinising a job candidate's private life. It can reveal information about protected characteristics like age, race, nationality, disability, gender, religion, etc., and that could bias a hiring decision. Pictures or comments on a private page that are taken out of context could ruin a perfectly good candidate's chances of getting hired. This process could potentially give an unfair advantage to one candidate over another. It creates an unequal playing field and potentially provides hiring managers with information that can impact their hiring decision in a negative way.

It's hard to ignore social media as a screening tool. While there are things that you shouldn't see, there are some things that can be lawfully considered - making it a valuable source of relevant information too. Using social media screening appropriately can help ensure that you don't hire a toxic employee who will cost you money or stain your company's reputation. Consider the lawful side of this process and you may be able to hire the best employee ever. There is a delicate balance.

Screening job candidates on social media must be done professionally and responsibly. Companies should stipulate that they will never ask for passwords, be consistent, document decisions, consider the source used and be aware that other laws may apply. In light of this it is probably best to look later in the process and ask human resources for help in navigating it. Social media is here to stay. But before using social media to screen job candidates, consulting with management and legal teams beforehand is essential in order to comply

with all laws.

46. What does the author mainly discuss in the passage?

- A. The advantage of using social media in screening job candidates.
- B. The potentially invasive nature of social media in everyday life.
- C. Whether the benefits of social media outweigh the drawbacks.
- D. Whether social media should be used to screen job candidates.

47. What might happen when social media is used to screen job candidates?

- A. Moral or legal issues might arise. B. Company reputation might suffer.
- C. Sensational information might surface. D. Hiring decisions might be complicated.

48. When could online personal information be detrimental to candidates?

- A. When it is separated from context. B. When it is scrutinised by an employer.
- C. When it is magnified to a ruinous degree. D. When it is revealed to the human resources.

49. How can employers use social media information to their advantage while avoiding unnecessary risks?

- A. By tipping the delicate balance. B. By using it in a legitimate way.
- C. By keeping personal information on record. D. By separating relevant from irrelevant data.

50. What does the author suggest doing before screening job candidates on social media?

- A. Hiring professionals to navigate the whole process.
- B. Anticipating potential risks involved in the process.
- C. Seeking advice from management and legal experts.
- D. Stipulating a set of rules for asking specific questions.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

In recent years, the food industry has increased its use of labels. Whether the labels say 'non-GMO(非转基因的)' or 'no sugar', or 'zero carbohydrates', consumers are increasingly demanding more information about what's in their food. One report found that 39 percent of consumers would switch from the brands they currently buy to others that provide clearer, more accurate product information. Food manufacturers are responding to the report with new labels to meet that demand, and they're doing so with an eye towards giving their products an advantage over the competition, and bolstering profits.

This strategy makes intuitive sense. If consumers say they want transparency, tell them exactly what is in your product. That is simply supplying a certain demand. But the marketing strategy in response to this consumer demand has gone beyond articulating what is in a product, to labeling what is NOT in the food. These labels are known as "absence claims" labels, and they represent an emerging labeling trend that is detrimental both to the consumers who purchase the products and the industry that supplies them.

For example, Hunt's put a "non-GMO" label on its canned crushed tomatoes a few years ago - despite the fact that at the time there was no such thing as a GMO tomato on the market. Some dairy companies are using the "non-GMO" label on their milk, despite the fact that all milk is naturally GMO-free, another label that creates unnecessary fear around food.

While creating labels that play on consumer fears and misconceptions about their food

may give a company a temporary marketing advantage over competing products on the grocery aisle, in the long term this strategy will have just the opposite effect: by injecting fear into the discourse about our food, we run the risk of eroding consumer trust in not just a single product, but the entire food business.

Eventually, it becomes a question in consumers' minds: Were these foods ever safe? By purchasing and consuming these types of products, have I already done some kind of harm to my family or the planet? For food manufacturers, it will mean damaged consumer trust and lower sales for everyone. And this isn't just supposition. A recent study found that absence claims labels can create a stigma around foods even when there is no scientific evidence that they cause harm.

It's clear that food manufacturers must tread carefully when it comes to using absence claims. In addition to the likely negative long-term impact on sales, this verbal trick sends a message that innovations in farming and food processing are unwelcome, eventually leading to less efficiency, fewer choices for consumers, and ultimately, more costly food products. If we allow this kind of labeling to continue, we will all lose.

51. What trend has been observed in a report?

- A. Food manufacturers' rising awareness of product safety.
- B. Food manufacturers' changing strategies to bolster profits.
- C. Consumers' growing demand for eye-catching food labels.
- D. Consumers' increasing desire for clear product information.

52. What does the author say is manufacturers' new marketing strategy?

- A. Stressing the absence of certain elements in their products.
- B. Articulating the unique nutritional value of their products.
- C. Supplying detailed information of their products.
- D. Designing transparent labels for their products.

53. What point does the author make about non-GMO labels?

- A. They are increasingly attracting customers' attention.
- B. They create lots of trouble for GMO food producers.
- C. They should be used more for vegetables and milk.
- D. They cause anxiety about food among consumers.

54. What does the author say absence claims labels will do to food manufacturers?

- A. Cause changes in their marketing strategies.
- B. Help remove stigma around their products.
- C. Erode consumer trust and reduce sales.
- D. Decrease support from food scientists.

55. What does the author suggest food manufacturers do?

- A. Take measures to lower the cost of food products.
- B. Exercise caution about the use of absence claims.
- C. Welcome new innovations in food processing.
- D. Promote efficiency and increase food variety.

第二套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

The trend toward rationality and enlightenment was endangered long before the advent of the World Wide Web. As Neil Postman noted in his 1985 book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, the rise of television introduced not just a new medium but a new discourse: a gradual shift from a typographic(印刷的) culture to a photographic one, which in turn meant a shift from rationality to emotions, exposition to entertainment. In an image-centered and pleasure-driven world, Postman noted, there is no place for rational thinking, because you simply cannot think with images. It is text that enables us to "uncover lies, confusions and overgeneralizations, and to detect abuses of logic and common sense. It also means to weigh ideas, to compare and contrast assertions, to connect one generalization to another."

The dominance of television was not confined to our living rooms. It overturned all of those habits of mind, fundamentally changing our experience of the world, affecting the conduct of politics, religion, business, and culture. It reduced many aspects of modern life to entertainment, sensationalism, and commerce. "Americans don't talk to each other, we entertain each other," Postman wrote. "They don't exchange ideas, they exchange images. They do not argue with propositions, they argue with good looks, celebrities and commercials."

At first, the web seemed to push against this trend. When it emerged towards the end of the 1980s as a purely text-based medium, it was seen as a tool to pursue knowledge, not pleasure. Reason and thought were most valued in this garden - all derived from the project of the Enlightenment. Universities around the world were among the first to connect to this new medium, which hosted discussion groups, informative personal or group blogs, electronic magazines, and academic mailing lists and forums. It was an intellectual project, not about commerce or control, created in a scientific research center in Switzerland. And for more than a decade, the web created an alternative space that threatened television's grip on society.

Social networks, though, have since colonized the web for television's values. From Facebook to Instagram, the medium refocuses our attention on videos and images, rewarding emotional appeals - 'like' buttons - over rational ones. Instead of a quest for knowledge, it engages us in an endless zest(热情) for instant approval from an audience, for which we are constantly but unconsciously performing. (It's telling that, while Google began life as a PhD thesis, Facebook started as a tool to judge classmates' appearances.) It reduces our curiosity by showing us exactly what we already want and think, based on our profiles and preferences. The Enlightenment's motto(座右铭) of 'Dare to know' has become 'Dare not to care to know'.

46. What did Neil Postman say about the rise of television?

- A. It initiated a change from dominance of reason to supremacy of pleasure.
- B. It brought about a gradual shift from cinema going to home entertainment.
- C. It started a revolution in photographic technology.

- D. It marked a new age in the entertainment industry.
47. According to the passage, what is the advantage of text reading?
- A. It gives one access to huge amounts of information.
B. It allows more information to be processed quickly.
C. It is capable of enriching one's life. D. It is conducive to critical thinking.
48. How has television impacted Americans?
- A. It has given them a lot more to argue about.
B. It has brought celebrities closer to their lives.
C. It has made them care more about what they say.
D. It has rendered their interactions more superficial.
49. What does the passage say about the World Wide Web?
- A. It was developed primarily for universities worldwide.
B. It was created to connect people in different countries.
C. It was viewed as a means to quest for knowledge.
D. It was designed as a discussion forum for university students.
50. What do we learn about users of social media?
- A. They are bent on looking for an alternative space for escape.
B. They are constantly seeking approval from their audience.
C. They are forever engaged in hunting for new information.
D. They are unable to focus their attention on tasks for long.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

According to a recent study, a small but growing proportion of the workforce is affected to some degree by a sense of entitlement. Work is less about what they can contribute but more about what they can take. It can lead to workplace dysfunction and diminish their own job satisfaction. I'm not referring to employees who are legitimately dissatisfied with their employment conditions due to, say, being denied fair pay or flexible work practices. I'm talking about those who consistently believe they deserve special treatment and generous rewards. It's an expectation that exists irrespective of their abilities or levels of performance.

As a result of that discrepancy between the privileges they feel they're owed and their inflated sense of self-worth, they don't work as hard for their employer. They prefer instead to slack off. It's a tendency which many scholars believe begins in childhood due to parents who overindulge their kids. This thereby leads them to expect the same kind of spoilt treatment throughout their adult lives. And yet despite how these employees feel, it's obviously important for their manager to nonetheless find out how to keep them motivated. And, by virtue of that heightened motivation, to perform well.

The research team from several American universities surveyed more than 240 individuals. They sampled managers as well as team members. Employee entitlement was measured by statements such as "I honestly feel I'm just more deserving than others". The respondents had to rate the extent of their agreement. Employee engagement, meanwhile, was assessed with statements like "I really throw myself into my work." The findings revealed

ethical leadership is precisely what alleviates the negative effects of employee entitlement. That's because rather than indulging employees or neglecting them, ethical leaders communicate very direct and clear expectations. They also hold employees accountable for their behaviors and are genuinely committed to doing the right thing. Additionally, these leaders are consistent in their standards. They're also less likely to deviate in how they treat employees.

This means, when confronted by an entitled team member, an ethical leader is significantly disinclined to accommodate their demands. He or she will instead point out, constructively and tactfully, exactly how their inflated sense of deservingness is somewhat distorted. They'd then go further to explain the specific, and objective, criteria the employee must meet to receive their desired rewards. This shift away from unrealistic expectations is successful because entitled employees feel more confident that ethical leaders will deliver on their promises. This occurs because they're perceived to be fair and trustworthy. The researchers, however, exercise caution by warning no one single response is the perfect remedy. But there's no denying ethical leadership is at least a critical step in the right direction.

51. What does a recent study find about a growing number of workers?
- A. They attempt to make more contributions. B. They feel they deserve more than they get.
C. They attach importance to job satisfaction. D. They try to diminish workplace dysfunction.
52. Why don't some employees work hard according to many scholars?
- A. They lack a strong sense of self-worth. B. They were spoiled when growing up.
C. They have received unfair treatment. D. They are overindulged by their boss.
53. What is a manager supposed to do to enable workers to do a better job?
- A. Be aware of their emotions. B. Give them timely promotions.
C. Keep a record of their performance. D. Seek ways to sustain their motivation.
54. What do the research findings reveal about ethical leaders?
- A. They are held accountable by their employees.
B. They are always transparent in their likes and dislikes.
C. They convey their requirements in a straightforward way.
D. They make it a point to be on good term with their employees.
55. What kind of leaders are viewed as ethical by entitled employees?
- A. Those who can be counted on to fulfill commitments.
B. Those who can do things beyond normal expectations.
C. Those who exercise caution in making major decisions.
D. Those who know how to satisfy their employees' needs.

第三套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

The subject of automation and its role in our economy has taken hold in American

public discourse. Technology broadly and automation specifically are dramatically reshaping the way we work. And we need to have a plan for what's still to come.

We don't have to look further than our own communities to see the devastating impact of automation. From automated warehouses to cashierless grocery stores to neighborhood libraries that offer self-checkout lanes instead of employing real people - automation is increasingly replacing jobs and leaving too few good new jobs behind.

The statistics in manufacturing are staggering. Despite the widespread fears about trade, a recent report showed that just 13 percent of jobs lost in manufacturing are due to trade - the rest of the losses have been due to advances in technology.

That is why more people are criticizing the ever-increasing role of technology in our economy. Our country is manufacturing more than ever before, but we are doing it with fewer workers. However, it's not just factories that are seeing losses - software and information technology are also having a dramatic impact on jobs most people think are secure from the forces of a rapidly-changing economy. Something transformative is happening in America that is having an adverse effect on American families. Whether policymakers and politicians admit it or not, workers have made clear their feelings about their economic insecurity and desire to keep good jobs in America.

So why are people so insistent on ignoring the perils of automation? They are failing to look ahead at a time when planning for the future is more important than ever. Resisting automation is futile: it is as inevitable as industrialization was before it. I sincerely hope that those who assert that automation will make us more effective and pave the way for new occupations are right, but the reality of automation's detrimental effects on workers makes me skeptical. No one can currently say where the new jobs are coming from or when, and any sensible company or country should prepare for all alternatives.

I'm not overstating the danger: look at what's happened to the labor force. According to economic research, one in six working-age men, 25-54, doesn't have a job. Fifty years ago, nearly 100 percent of men that age were working. Women's labor force participation, meanwhile, has slipped back to the level it was at in the late 1980s.

American families and prominent business leaders are aware that there's a big problem with automation. The value of a college degree is diminishing, and our upward mobility is declining. If we want an economy that allows everyone to be economically secure, we need to start thinking about how we can rightfully address automation.

46. What can we observe from the author's description of our communities?

- A. The growing passion for automation.
- B. The shift from manual jobs to IT ones.
- C. Their changing views on employment.
- D. Their fading employment opportunities.

47. What do we learn from a recent report?

- A. The manufacturing sector is declining at a fast rate.
- B. The concerns about the effect of trade are exaggerated.
- C. The fears about trade have been spreading far and wide.
- D. The impact of trade on employment has been staggering.

48. What does the passage tell us about American workers in an era of transformation?

- A. They feel ignored by politicians.
- B. They feel increasingly vulnerable.
- C. They keep adapting to the changes.
- D. They keep complaining but to no avail.

49. What does the author think of automation?

- A. It will have the same impact as industrialization.
 - B. It provides sensible companies with alternatives.
 - C. Its alleged positive effects are doubtful.
 - D. Its detrimental effects are unavoidable.
50. What should we attach importance to when dealing with automation?
- A. College graduates' job prospects. B. Women's access to employment.
 - C. People's economic security. D. People's social mobility.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Look at the people around you. Some are passive, others more aggressive. Some work best alone, others crave companionship. We easily recognize that there is great variation among the individuals who live near us. Yet, when we speak of people from elsewhere, we seem to inevitably characterize them based on their country of origin.

Statistics specialists, when they speak of national averages, often make the same mistake.

Newly published research shows how erroneous such overviews are. Three researchers analyzed decades of values-based surveys and found that only between 16% and 21% of the variation in cultural values could be explained by differences between countries. In other words, the vast majority of what makes us culturally distinct from one another has nothing to do with our homeland.

To determine what factors really are associated with culture, the authors combined data from 558 prior surveys that each measured one or more of Hofstede's cultural dimensions. These are traits, such as individualism and masculinity, that describe work-related cultural values. (They are not a measure of visible cultural traits, such as food or dress.) Though the validity of Hofstede's dimensions has been questioned, they have the singular benefit of having been in use for decades, which allows for historical and international comparisons.

The researchers found that both demographic factors, such as age, and environmental factors, such as long-term unemployment rates, were more correlated with cultural values than nationality. Occupation and social economic status were the most strongly correlated, suggesting that our values are more economically driven than we usually give them credit for.

The evidence implies that people with similar jobs and incomes are more culturally alike, regardless of where they live. Vas Taras, the lead author of the study, puts it this way: "Tell me how much you make and I will make a pretty accurate prediction about your cultural values. Tell me what your nationality is and I probably will make a wrong prediction."

Taras says our erroneous belief that countries are cultures has caused businesses to teach their employees useless or even harmful ways of interacting with their international peers. Chinese and American lawyers might be trained to interact based on the assumption that the Chinese person is less individualistic, even though their similar social economic situations make it probable they are actually quite alike in that regard.

The country, as the unit of authority, is often a convenient way of generalizing about a

population. However, our focus on countries can mask broad variations within them. In the majority of cases we would be better off identifying people by the factors that constrain their lives, like income, rather than by the lines surrounding them on a map.

51. What error do experts often make when describing people from other places?

- A. They tend to overly rely on nationality.
- B. They often exaggerate their difference.
- C. They often misunderstand their cultures.
- D. They end to dwell on national averages.

52. What do we learn about Hofstede's cultural dimensions?

- A. They are useful in comparing cultural values across time and space.
- B. They have brought unusual benefits to people of different cultures.
- C. They are widely used to identify people's individual traits.
- D. They provide valuable questions for researchers to study.

53. What did researchers find about previous studies on factors determining people's value?

- A. Environmental factors were prioritized over other factors.
- B. An individual's financial status was often underestimated.
- C. Too much emphasis had been placed on one's occupation.
- D. The impact of social progress on one's values was ignored.

54. What is the impact on employees when cultures are identified with countries?

- A. They may fail to see the cultural biases of their business partners.
- B. They may fail to attach sufficient importance to cultural diversity.
- C. They may not be taught how to properly interact with overseas partners.
- D. They may not be able to learn the legal procedures for business transactions.

55. What does the author suggest at the end of the passage?

- A. There is sufficient reason to generalize about a country's population.
- B. The majority of people are still constrained by their national identity.
- C. It is arguable that the country should be regarded as the unit of authority.
- D. Nationality is less useful than socio-economic status as an indicator of one's values.

答案

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第一套 46-50 DABCD 51-55 BCDAD

第二套 46-50 BCADC 51-55 BCDAB

第三套 46-50 DACAB 51-55 DCADB

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第一套 46-50 ADBBB 51-55 CADBC

第二套 46-50 BBDAC 51-55 ACDAD

第三套 46-50 BBDAC 51-55 ACDAD

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